

150

Saturday July 20 1996

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Austria A 1.50	Canada C 1.50	France F 1.50
Bahrain B 1.50	China C 1.50	Germany G 1.50
Brazil B 1.50	Colombia C 1.50	India I 1.50
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China C 1.50	Denmark D 1.50	Japan J 1.50
Colombia C 1.50	France F 1.50	Korea S 1.50
Czechia C 1.50	Germany G 1.50	Latvia L 1.50
Denmark D 1.50	India I 1.50	Lithuania L 1.50
France F 1.50	Japan J 1.50	Malta M 1.50
Germany G 1.50	Korea S 1.50	Netherlands N 1.50
India I 1.50	Latvia L 1.50	Poland P 1.50
Italy I 1.50	Lithuania L 1.50	Romania R 1.50
Japan J 1.50	Malta M 1.50	Slovenia S 1.50
Korea S 1.50	Netherlands N 1.50	Spain S 1.50
Latvia L 1.50	Poland P 1.50	Sweden S 1.50
Lithuania L 1.50	Romania R 1.50	Switzerland S 1.50
Malta M 1.50	Slovenia S 1.50	Taiwan T 1.50
Netherlands N 1.50	Spain S 1.50	Turkey T 1.50
Poland P 1.50	Sweden S 1.50	Ukraine U 1.50
Romania R 1.50	Switzerland S 1.50	USA U 1.50
Slovenia S 1.50	Taiwan T 1.50	Zimbabwe Z 1.50
Spain S 1.50	Turkey T 1.50	
Sweden S 1.50	Ukraine U 1.50	
Switzerland S 1.50	USA U 1.50	
Taiwan T 1.50	Zimbabwe Z 1.50	
Turkey T 1.50		
Ukraine U 1.50		
USA U 1.50		
Zimbabwe Z 1.50		

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,610

British Open

News and sports coverage from the British Open golf tournament.

Outlook

Analysis and forecasts for the week ahead.

School trip girl killed in hostel

Geoffrey Gibbs and Paul Webster in Paris

A 13-YEAR-OLD British girl on a school trip to France has been found raped and murdered in her bed in the youth hostel dormitory she shared with four other pupils.

The body of Caroline Dickinson, a second year pupil at Launceston College, in Cornwall, was found by one of the four girls, aged 13 and 14, when they woke up. It was not clear last night whether she had been murdered while she was sleeping.

Ronald Franklin, the British consul in Brittany, described the moment her body was discovered. "One of the girls touched her in her bed and she was cold. There was also some discoloration."

The girl immediately told the other pupils in the dormitory and then got a teacher from a neighbouring room. A post mortem examination revealed Caroline had been raped and then suffocated.

Mr Franklin said the other pupils in the group had only been told the girl was ill. "We, the teachers and the girls in the dormitory, took the initial decision not to tell the pupils the girl had died. We thought it would be too much."

Caroline was staying at the hostel in Plaine-Fougères, which is about 30 miles from St Malo in Brittany, north-west France. She was among a party of 40 children and five adults who arrived on Sunday for an activity week to sample French food and visit nearby Mont St Michel and Bayeux. They were due back today.

French police are carrying out the murder investigation.



Caroline Dickinson, found raped and murdered in bed

and liaising with Devon and Cornwall officers. The French examining magistrate, Gerard Saug, yesterday said Caroline was found dead at 8am on Thursday.

Alan Wroath, the head teacher of Launceston College, a comprehensive school with 1,200 pupils, described Caroline as a lively girl who had worked hard, had lots of friends, and "always had a ready smile".

The youth hostel had been a base for the school's activities week for three years, chosen because of its quiet but central position. Mr Wroath said activities week, an established part of the school since 1975, was a time when children in years seven, eight, and nine took part in a variety of activities in Britain and abroad.

Many of the other children from Launceston College are also on activities week trips and teachers are informing them of the tragedy.

Term opens next week and until next Thursday and Cornwall county council's chief education officer, Jonathan Harris, said there were no plans to end it early. Nor was he going to suspend school trips.

Staff on the trip were "experienced and dedicated professionals" who had his total support. They included two male and two female members of staff, and a teacher's wife, who is a qualified nurse.

Mr Wroath said the school had arranged for Caroline's parents, John and Sue, to be flown to France with their 11-year-old daughter, including a French national.

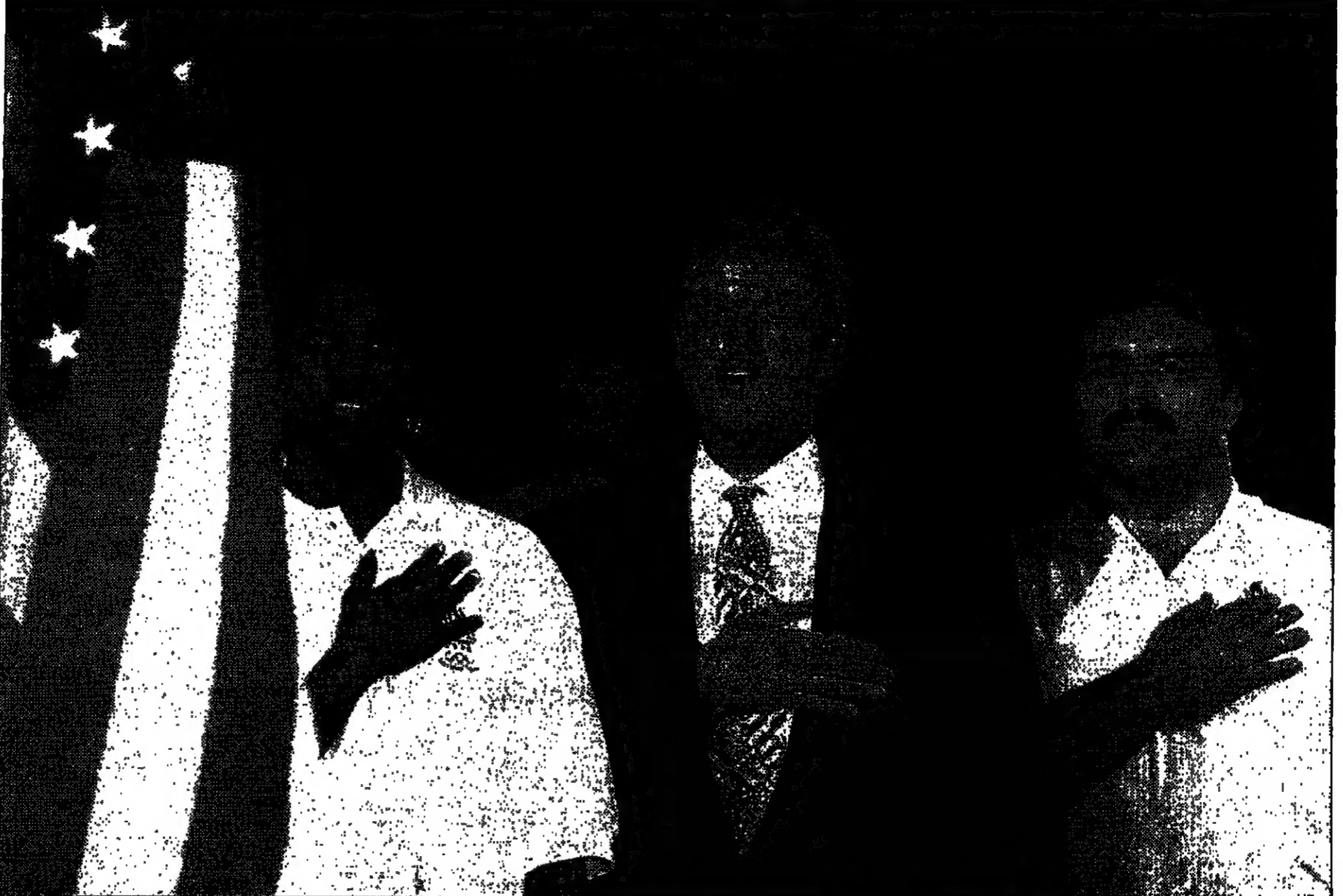
Counselling has been set up for the children in the party, their parents, other children in the college, and staff.

Parents collecting children from the school yesterday were reluctant to talk. Many of the children were in tears.

One mother collecting her daughter from a school trip to South Devon said she did not know whether the girl had been raped or suffocated. "I was shocked to hear her name. She was a good friend of the child and I'm not looking forward to seeing her."

Former pupil Susannah West, aged 11, who laid a small floral wreath to the girl's grave yesterday.

"This is the only secondary school in Launceston area which has a connection with it. The seven and the surrounding community area. They are all very close and many will know someone at the school. The whole town will be affected by this tragedy."



President Clinton with US athletes, Teresa Edwards and Bruce Banngartner, salutes the flag at the Olympic village in Atlanta last night

Big bucks and fizz get them marching through Georgia

Richard Williams at the opening of the 100th Olympic Games in Atlanta

HUMAN butterflies, paper doves, a fleet of silver pick-up trucks, giant orchestras, choirs, marching bands, doves and a shadowy display of giant Greek warriors featured in last night's three-hour opening ceremony for the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia.

From a recording of Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech, to the singer Celine Dion performing 'The Power of the Dream', the ceremony was designed as a joint celebration of the South and the centenary of the Games.

For perhaps the only time in the whole of the most commerce-driven tournament in the history of sport, the sponsors kept their heads down as singers, speakers, actors and dancers projected themes of purity and unity.

An audience of 83,000 in the new \$200 million (\$180 million) Olympic Stadium was joined by an estimated 3.5 billion television viewers around the world

as President Clinton opened the 26th Olympic Games of the modern era. His brief address followed the entry of the athletes of 197 countries. The triple gold medal winning barman Steve Redgrave carried the Union Jack at the head of the Great British team, as he did in Barcelona.

Detoured by the late hour, temperatures in the mid-90s and the likelihood of traffic gridlocks, many athletes were planning to give the ceremony a miss.

Teresa Edwards, a member of the US women's basketball team, was selected to represent all 10,361 of them by reciting the Olympic

oath, promising on their behalf to compete "in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honour of our teams".

The soul singer Gladys Knight was invited to sing Georgia On My Mind. Jesse Norman - a native of Augusta, Georgia - was due to deliver China, Altius, Fortius, an anthem written around the Olympic slogan. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of the Oscar-winning film composer John Williams, played Samson. The Heroes, an instrumental theme for the Games. A hundred percussionists on five mobile stages performed music co-written by the Crazyfist Dead's drummer, Mickey Hart, and the composer Philip Glass.

The Olympic torch was to be carried up to the Olympic cauldron at one minute after midnight, at the end of a journey which began in Olympia on March 30. About 10,000 runners carried it on its 15,000-mile relay across America, along a route plastered with the Coca-Cola logo.

The TWA disaster cast its shadow. At Hartsfield Airport, the second busiest in the US, security was increased to Level 3, the highest since the Gulf War, as athletes continued to arrive.

Today's programme includes the first appearance of the US basketball Dream Team, and the first gold medals in fencing, judo, shooting, swimming, weightlifting and wrestling.

Anger at Cambridge 'blood money'

David Connell

CAMBRIDGE University is to accept a £1.5 million donation from BAT Industries, one of the world's leading cigarette makers. It was announced last night.

Senior staff at the university voted to accept the donation, but the move angered health groups and many academics who demanded the university reject the offer.

They argued, Cambridge should not accept "blood money" from BAT because of the risks of smoking.

But the University decided to let senior staff decide the issue and last night it was announced they had voted 1:128 to 53 in favour of BAT, which owns many of the world's leading brands, wants to use the money to set up a professorship in international relations named after the former company chairman, Sir Patrick Shreeve.

Sir David Williams, the vice-chancellor, last night denied the university was advocating smoking. "The university does stress this decision does not endorse the production of a particular cigarette brand," he said. "There had been a high turnout in the ballot and a large majority in favour of the donation."

The decision was con-

demned by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and tobacco control pressure group ASH. Richard Peto, ICRF's professor of medical statistics and an expert on smoking and disease, said: "British American Tobacco kill half their regular customers, so they have to spend a lot of money buying good will. I am sorry Cambridge did not have the sense to turn down the tobacco industry money."

Famala Furness, chief executive of ASH, said: "Cambridge University has sold its good name to a company which profits from sales of a lethal and highly addictive product. This acceptance of this blood money is a betrayal of all those academics whose outstanding work Cambridge's reputation has been built on."

"The university has made an enormous contribution to the fight against death and disease in developing countries. Yet by accepting this money, the university is helping to promote tobacco in developing world."

The decision was greeted with regret by Professor Sir Keith Peck, head of the university's clinical school. "I greatly regret the result of the ballot," he said. "But I fully accept the democratic view of the majority."

swatch

OLYMPIC LEGENDS BY SWATCH

Members' interests take on new meaning for bonkbuster novelist MP

James Melke

FRESHES a whole new light on members' interests. Hypocritical MPs who lay down the law on family values spend much of their time lying down for their in-

terests, according to the political correctness conservative MP James Melke.

The former novelist turned politician has just now seriously her colleagues take families.

Melke's latest work, 'The Politics of the Family', is a scathing attack on the hypocrisy of MPs who lay down the law on family values while spending much of their time lying down for their in-

terests. Steven Norris: "Everyone knew he changed camps with remarkable frequency." David Mellor: "He is bright, articulate and ambitious, but not exactly Tom Cringley's type."

Melke is also sharing her thoughts with Marie Claire magazine, said: "The Cabinet was determined to lay down benchmarks for correct behaviour. The fact that several frontbenchers might be helping themselves down regularly to the service of their girlfriends does not seem to have crossed any minds."

Apology

Mrs Currie said that after a scandal broke: "The minister hides for a day or two, then shuffles back in. He is greeted with murmurs of condolence by his own side and sniggers by the Opposition. For many it is a case of 'fudge' but for the grace of God..."

Britain World News Finance Sport

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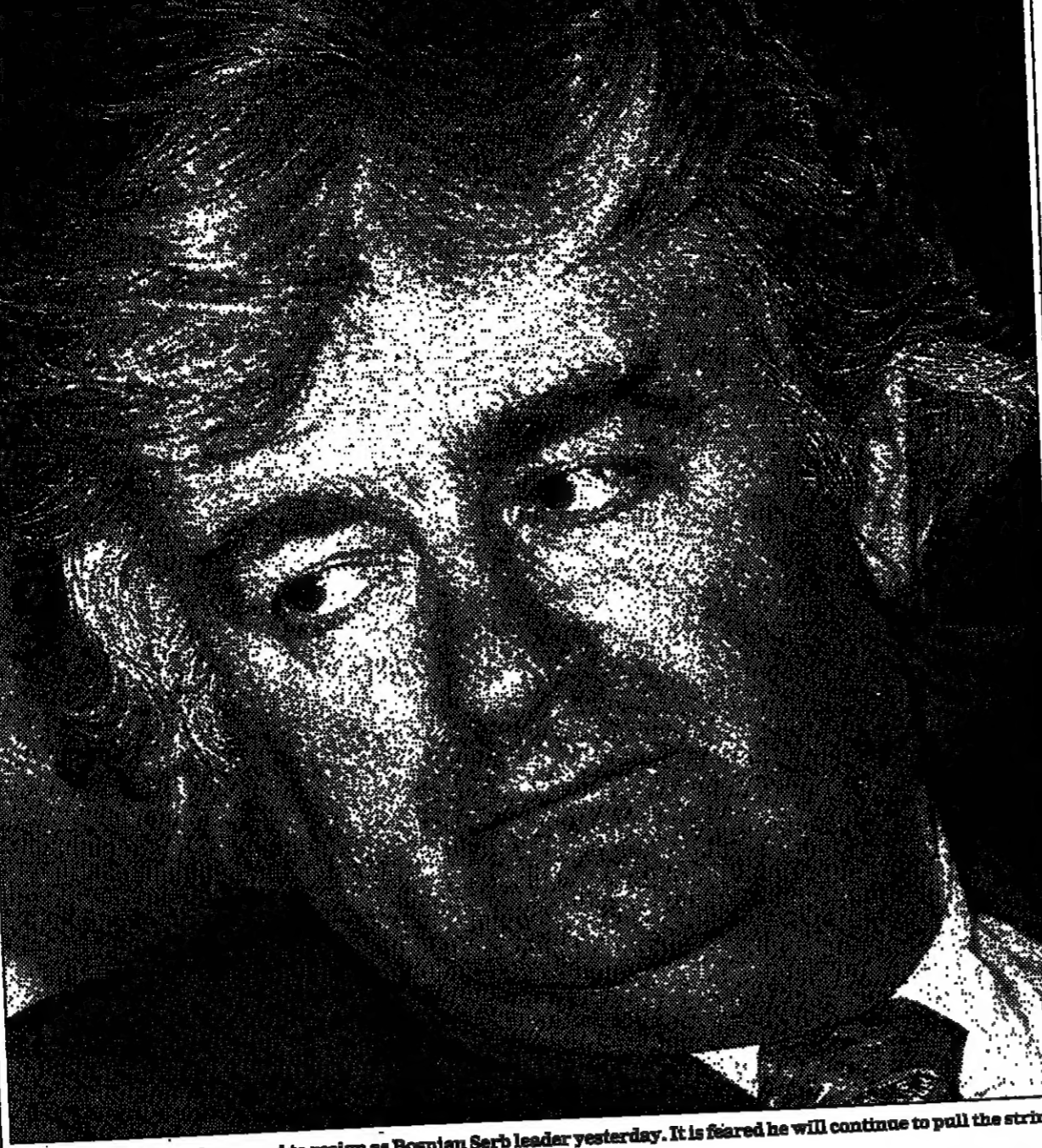
2 NEWS/CHRONICLE

Karadzic forced into promise to step down

Ed Vulliamy

RADOVAN Karadzic - the Bosnian Serb leader and an international fugitive wanted for genocide and many other war crimes - pledged yesterday to "withdraw immediately from all political activities", as demanded by the Dayton peace mandate by Dayton peace...

becomes "president", and witnessed by Mr Milosevic. With details of the deal still unclear last night, sources said that the question of the Brcko corridor - the only territorial matter left unsettled by Dayton - was introduced as a bargaining chip by Mr Milosevic. US sources denied that Brcko had been sold to the Serbs in return for Mr Karadzic's departure. The first pledge confirms Mr Karadzic's promise to stand down as leader of the "Republic of Srpska" statelet, which Miss Plavcic assumed the presidency from yesterday. Mr Karadzic also "relinquishes all powers associated" with the office. The second says Mr Karadzic will "withdraw immediately from all political activity, and will not appear on radio, television or other media. The third, which proved the hardest to achieve, was that he would relinquish the presidency of the nationalist SDS party which he used to seize power. Crucial matters remain unresolved: his continued liberty in defiance of the Hague war crimes tribunal last week. The US state department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said the Belgrade deal was "unfinished business, that pressure should be kept on [Mr Karadzic] and should end up in The Hague". Mr Holbrooke secured Mr Karadzic's signature on a three-section document, ratified by the deputy president, Biljana Plavcic, who now



Radovan Karadzic, who agreed to resign as Bosnian Serb leader yesterday. It is feared he will continue to pull the strings

Insiders say that this week's talks lacked the usual mix of camaraderie and diplomacy between the two men. Mr Holbrooke carried President Clinton's authority to warn Mr Milosevic that the

US would push for renewed sanctions against Serbia if he did not comply. The fact that Mr Milosevic was able to marry during the talks so quickly indicates the authority he holds over the Bosnian Serbs.

This latest, apparently effortless exercise of authority over Mr Karadzic was keenly noted in the Hague yesterday, where investigators are stepping up their inquiries into President Milosevic's

role in the Bosnian carnage. The spokesman for the Hague tribunal, Christian Chiriac, described Mr Karadzic's climbdown as "the first step on a road which must lead to The Hague".

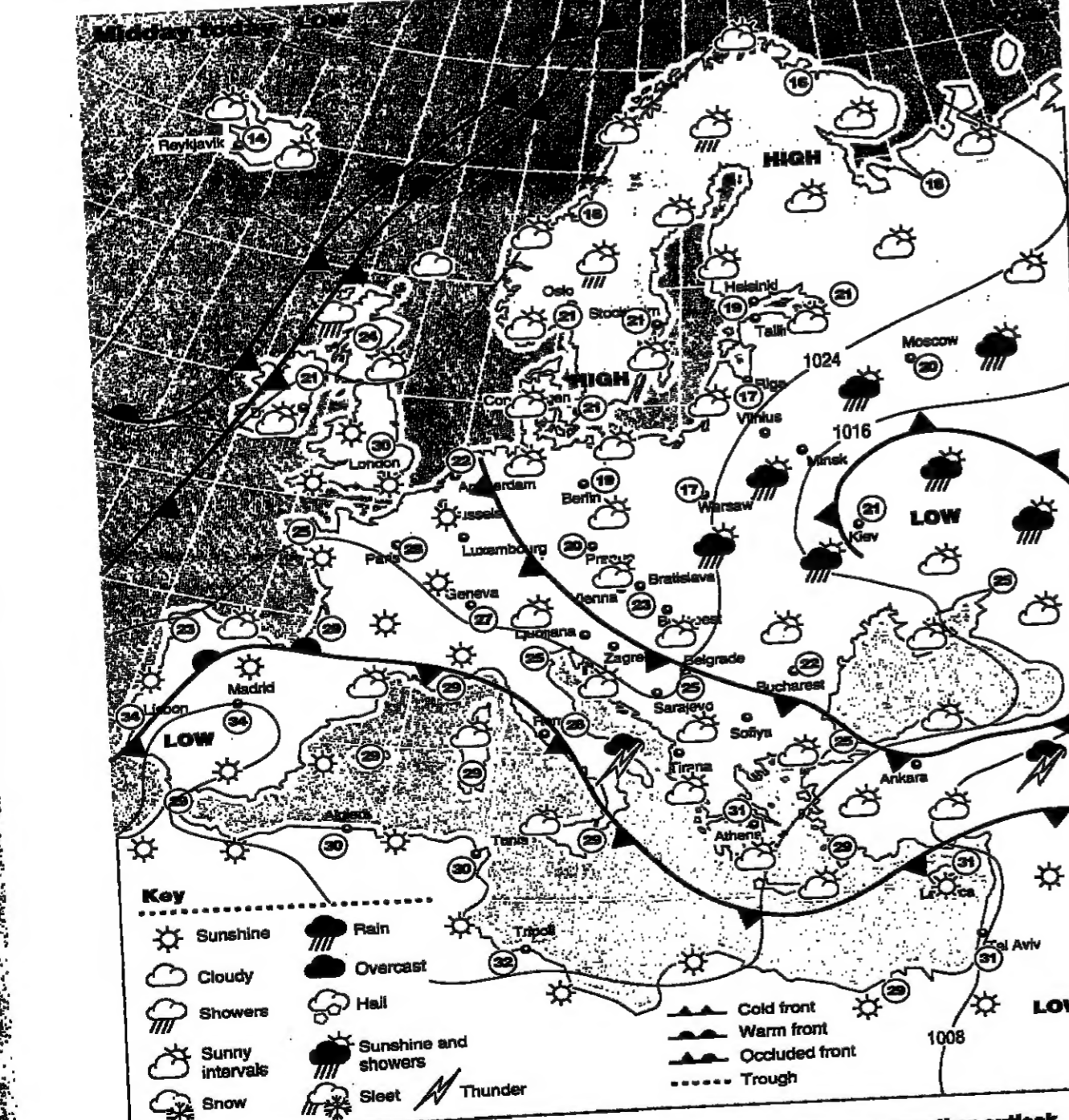
Blair grits his teeth to avert split over shadow election

David Hencke and Michael White

TONY BLAIR is giving his full support to Wednesday's shadow cabinet elections to ensure Labour goes into the general election with a united campaigning team. Junior spokesmen and women such as Brian Wilson, Alistair Darling, Henry McLeish and Tessa Jowell, whom the leader would dearly like in his Shadow cabinet, have agreed not to stand to avoid splitting the vote. There will be a direct confrontation between Harriet Harman, the shadow health spokesman, and Ann Selwyn, the outspoken Welsh MP and campaigner for the Kurds and East Timor. Ms Selwyn hopes at what her close supporter, Brian Sedgwick, calls "Tony Blair's designer hair shirt hypocrisy". Irene Adams, Labour MP for Paisley, and Paul Flynn, backbench Labour rebel, will also stand. Mr Flynn, MP for Newport West, will be pitching for the vacancy created by Joan Lester's resignation - along with last year's runner-up, Jack Cunningham, who hopes to get back into the shadow cabinet. Mr Cunningham, whom Mr Blair appointed shadow heritage secretary, will be getting full backing from the leadership to ensure

that none of the more difficult rebels wins. Mr Blair has had to grit his teeth to support Clare Short, Ann Taylor, Michael Meacher and Ann Davies in the hope that Harriet Harman will also be elected. Ms Harman is understood to be guaranteed a post in his Shadow cabinet even if she loses support following the row about sending her son to a selective grammar school. With active support from Blair loyalists she is busy campaigning in Commons corridors on her record as health spokeswoman, a key election portfolio. Labour colleagues predict that Tony Blair and Chris Mullin, another independent-minded leftwinger, will also run, although most middle-ranking shadow hopefuls look set to accept a leadership's plea to stand down and let the current team have a clear run. Meanwhile, John Major may pig Labour's shadow elections with a limited ministerial reshuffle on Monday. He will replace Steve Norris and Tim Eggar, two ministers of state who plan to leave parliament. Both are three months in waiting prior to top jobs in industry. Mr Norris, who has been paid £100,000 for his political memoirs, is keen to go as soon as possible and hopes to land at least two directorships with bus companies before the end of the year. Mr Eggar is already looking for openings in the oil and gas industries.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities table with columns for city, today, and tomorrow weather.

European weather outlook: A large area of high pressure covers much of Scandinavia and that means most places will be fine and bright with broken cloud and sunny patches...

Television and radio - Saturday

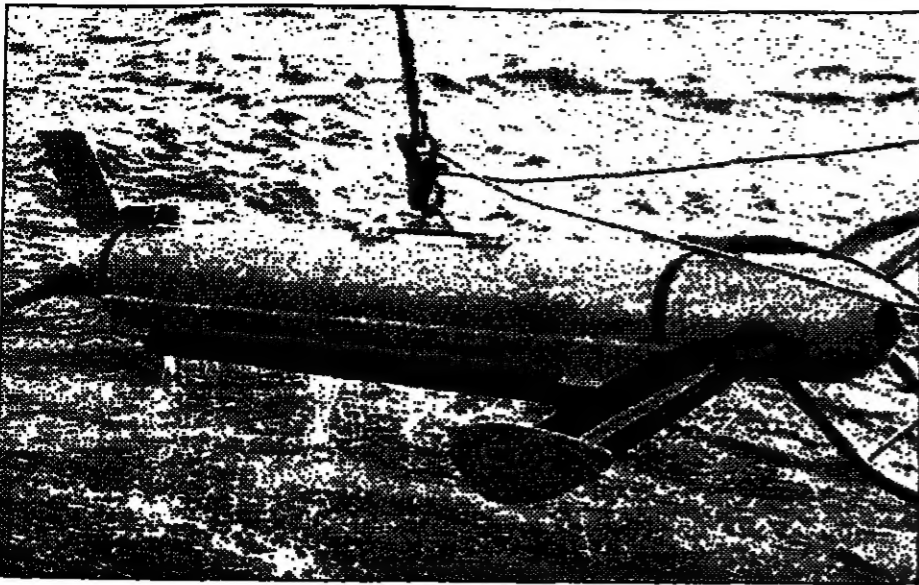
- BBC 1: 7.00pm Emancipated Tales, 8.55 News, 9.00pm The Simpsons, 9.15pm The Simpsons, 9.30pm The Simpsons...

Television and radio - Sunday

- BBC 1: 7.00pm Emancipated Tales, 8.55 News, 9.00pm The Simpsons, 9.15pm The Simpsons, 9.30pm The Simpsons...

Advertisement for 'The Two' and other services, including 'Missile success down as F...' and 'Judge a...'

150



The US navy may use a sonar device similar to the one above to search the ocean floor for key flight data and voice recorders. Below, part of the plane's wing is lifted from the sea

THE TWA DISASTER

Missile suggestions played down as FBI begins inquiry and crash team scours the ocean bed

Terrorist bomb theory gains ground

Jim Katz in New York

THE FBI appeared poised yesterday to take over the investigation of the TWA Flight 800 disaster as suspicions mounted that the Boeing 747 with 230 passengers and crew on board was brought down by a terrorist attack.

Crash investigators continued to scour a 500 square mile stretch of ocean off eastern Long Island for bodies and debris. Meanwhile, there were reports that some of the wreckage already retrieved suggested a bomb was responsible for the explosion that turned the aircraft into a fireball 13,000 feet above the Atlantic on Wednesday night.

While officials insisted they had not ruled out mechanical failure, Robert Francis, the vice-chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, conceded there was a "distinct possibility" that the disaster was caused by a "criminal act".

Jim Kallstrom, the FBI agent in charge of New York's anti-terrorism task force, insisted he had not yet taken over the investigation, but said he had launched a "massive" investigation. "We will know what happened on that airplane, whether it is 24 hours from now or a week from now... If it's a terrorist attack we then have the challenge of finding the cowards who carried it out."

Off Long Island, meanwhile, thick fog and choppy seas thwarted the search for bodies and debris from the aircraft which plunged into the sea less than half an hour into its flight from New York to Paris.

By lunchtime yesterday 140 bodies had been recovered. With hope of finding any survivors evaporated, investigators were concentrating their efforts on finding the two "black box" flight recorders, which it is hoped will help establish the cause of America's second worst air disaster. Hopes that the cause of the crash could be established

quickly were raised when it emerged that investigators using sonar equipment had found several large pieces of wreckage on the ocean floor. These were being recovered by Coastguard vessels.

Divers joined the flotilla of vessels and helicopters scouring a computer-generated grid but heavy seas prevented them from searching an area of the sea floor where a large section of the aircraft is believed to be lying.

The Clinton administration continued to discourage speculation about the cause of the crash, dismissing a threat of an imminent attack reportedly sent by a radical Islamic group to an Arabic newspaper.

Officials also discounted suggestions that Flight 800 may have been downed by a ground-to-air missile, pointing out that the aircraft exploded above the range of shoulder-fired missiles.

The missile theory had gained currency on Thursday night after it emerged that several witnesses reported seeing something bright head-

ing towards the aircraft and that radar operators had seen a second "blip" near the jet. Pentagon officials said the blip was a "spurious signal".

The army of crash investigators, law enforcement officers, scientists and medical staff continued to issue conflicting signals. Suffolk County Medical Examiner Charles Wetli said none of the bodies he had examined showed evidence of a bomb blast.

But Mr Kallstrom hinted it was only a matter of time before the investigation became a criminal inquiry. "There will be a point of time that we will reach critical mass and it won't be too long."

The FBI has appealed for anyone with information about the crash to get in touch and agents have begun interviewing everyone who saw Flight 800 go down. The bureau's forensic experts have begun examining wreckage.

Trust out to flight, Outlook front

The victims

'You just think you heard this and it didn't really happen'

THEY were as diverse as the city they left 29 minutes earlier: a fashionable interior decorator and intimate of Andy Warhol; a TV producer on his last assignment; an elderly couple planning to celebrate a birthday in Paris; a pair of wine enthusiasts realising their dream of visiting the French vineyards, writes *Jan Katz*.

All that bound them together was that at 8.47pm on Wednesday evening they sat on the same TWA 747 bound for Paris and a few moments later they were dead. As the names became people yesterday, the full horror of

the Flight 800 tragedy set in. In Mendham, New Jersey, the Capozza family reminisced through tearful eyes about Ludovic Chanson's visit. The 11-year-old French exchange student had just spent his second summer with the family, indulging his twin passions for pistachio ice cream and televised basketball.

His bag had been so full of NBA basketball memorabilia that he had to sit on it to close it. On the way to the airport the Capozzas had taken him to Planet Hollywood for one last treat. He was wearing his beloved Chicago Bulls shirt when they waved goodbye to him at JFK.

In Scarsdale, New York, they remembered Lois Epps, an English and drama teacher at Edgemont High School. Ms Epps had no family of her own but was reportedly revered by her students. She was, said the school's principal, "a teacher about whom I have never heard a bad word. She had an uncanny ability to teach kids."

In the tiny Alabama town of Stevenson, population 2,300, they lowered all flags to half mast. Five local people were aboard Flight 800, headed for a holiday in France.

Michael Scott, a physicist, was taking his 13-year-old son, Joseph, and his friend, Thomas Weatherby, hiking in the French mountains. Mr Scott's wife Barbara, a nurse, planned a week's shopping in Paris with Thomas's mother, Brenda Privette.

Barry Privette, Mrs Privette's husband of eight months, stayed behind to work. "We just haven't got hold of it yet," said his brother, Don Privette. "We're just trying to cope with it."

At the Ramada Inn near JFK airport, relatives and friends of the lost replayed last conversations. Heidi Snow thought about the phone call in which her boyfriend had proposed to her, moments before taking his seat. They had spent a wonderful week together. "I guess that was the honeymoon we never had," said Ms Snow.

Joe Lycher remembered his wife's excitement as she called to say she was about to board the plane with their two daughters, aged 10 and 8. He told her to have fun and she promised she would.

"How many times do you get up in the morning and turn on the TV and think 'too bad' and then get in the car and go to work and then all of a sudden the phone rings and it's for you," said Mr Lycher's sister Judith Lycher.

Jacki Penzer thought about her seven-year-old daughter's last conversation with her sister, Judy. The child wanted to know why French fries were called French fries. She had broken news of the crash to her daughter gently but the child had guessed instantly. "She said 'Judy was on that plane. She's dead, isn't she?'"

The awful reality had not yet sunk in, said Ms Penzer. "At some moments you get so hysterical about it and at other moments you don't know what happened. You just think you heard this and it didn't really happen."

Judge attacks growth hormone negligence as families win key case

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

LETHARGY and inaction by the Department of Health and the Medical Research Council caused the deaths of young people who were treated with growth hormone infected with the deadly Creutzfeldt-Jacob virus, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Mr Justice Morland held that officials were negligent in not halting human growth hormone (HGH) treatment for short stature after they were alerted to fears about con-

tamination with the slow-acting virus.

He was delivering judgement in the first legal action over a pharmaceutical product to succeed in the English courts.

The group compensation claim was brought by the families of 11 young people who died from the human form of mad cow disease after taking growth hormone as children to boost their stature.

But families in court reacted with dismay as it became clear that only those few who started the treatment after July 1, 1977, will be eligible for compensation. It was

only after that date, the judge ruled, that growing information about the risk that CJD could be transmitted through the treatment pointed to a "clear duty" to halt the treatment programme.

Solicitors for the families said it would probably be unclear until after the weekend when dates could be checked, how many will qualify for compensation. Early indications are that only a handful started the programme — which ran from 1963 until 1985 — after July 1, 1977. Compensation, for those who qualify, still has to be assessed.

The only certain beneficia-

ries yesterday were Zara, aged 10, and Nicola, aged 5, daughters of Patrick Baldwin, who died in 1993 aged 30. He started treatment in October 1977 and finished in 1980.

Tam Fry of the Child Growth Foundation, the parents' pressure group, whose daughter was treated with HGH but has not developed CJD, said: "It is inequitable the judgment should exclude families whose children have died from any kind of compensation. Any family of a child who has died should be treated equally."

Nearly 2,000 children were treated with the hormone,

which was extracted from the pituitary glands of corpses in mortuaries. Mortuary technicians were paid 10p or 20p per gland to collect as many as they could, often from elderly people who died of dementia.

The slow virus, or prion, which causes CJD can incubate for up to 30 years, scientists believe. So an unknown number could still develop the disease, although no deaths have been recorded among those treated after 1980, when manufacture was switched to the government laboratory at Porton Down in Wiltshire.

A second group of claim-

ants, who were treated with HGH but have not developed CJD, are suing for the psychological trauma and other problems of living with an uncertain future.

Mr Justice Morland outlined a damning catalogue of inaction on the part of the department and the Medical Research Council. Officials displayed a "lack of drive and urgency" and acted "lethargically" in the face of mounting fears that HGH could be infected with the CJD virus.

A committee of specialists representing clinicians who were treating the children was "kept deliberately in the

dark" about the concerns, said the judge.

A warning by an eminent virologist, Professor Patrick Wildy, in 1977 that "any clinician who uses growth hormone must be made aware of the gruesome possibilities and their imponderable probabilities" was not passed on to the health service committee of clinicians overseeing the treatment programme.

In October 1976 the Medical Research Council was alerted by Dr Alan Dickinson, a veterinary scientist studying the sheep disease scrapie, which resembles CJD, of the possibility CJD could be trans-

mitted through growth hormones. Action on his written opinion, received five months later, was inadequate and lacked urgency, said the judge.

A member of the clinicians' committee at the time, Professor Charles Brook, professor of paediatric endocrinology at University College, told the judge during the hearing that he had never seen Professor Wildy's letter.

If he had seen it at the time, it would have had a "shattering" impact on him. Parents would have been told and the committee would have wanted to call a conference of experts to assess the risk.

WEILL'S TROUBLED WATERS.

THE PROMS 'THE SILVER LAKE' KURT WEILL'S TURBULENT, JAZZ-INFLUENCED OPERA PERFORMED BY AN INTERNATIONAL CAST. JULY 21 AT 7:30PM. EVERY NIGHT OF THE PROMS IS LIVE ON RADIO 3.

4 BRITAIN

Lilley invites businesses to tender for taking over payment of child benefit, as unions warn that thousands of jobs could be at risk

Social security 'faces privatisation'

Simon Midgley

GOVERNMENT proposals to privatise the payment of child benefit and possibly other elements of welfare could anger the wholesale privatisation of the social security system and the loss of thousands of jobs, civil service unions warned yesterday.

One union leader warned that industrial action, which might involve withholding child benefit payments from millions, could be imminent.

Yesterday Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, announced that the private sector was being invited to submit proposals for taking over payment of child benefit to 7 million families.

In a related initiative, private companies are being invited to work with the Benefits Agency in administering benefit delivery in three of the agency's 13 regions — in Yorkshire, the West Country, and East London and Anglia — for 12 months.

The companies are to help develop new business processes and information technology, but will also be invited to submit proposals spelling out how parts of the agency's business could be run more efficiently in future including possible further privatisation.

The first proposal involves a multinational computer company or bank, for example, taking over the role of the Child Benefit Centre in Washington, Tyne and Wear in administering child benefit, one-parent benefits and guardian's allowances. The centre's 1,850 staff would cease to be government employees and would move to

the payroll of the private contractor.

Yesterday Mike King, national officer of the Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union, warned that the proposals amounted to "the wholesale privatisation of welfare benefit" and the loss of "thousands of civil servants' jobs" — a view shared by Chris Kirk, section secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association.

Announcing the changes in a parliamentary written reply yesterday, Mr Lilley said the initiatives were "designed to improve the administration

of the benefit system" but would not change any individual's entitlement to benefits.

The proposal to privatise the delivery of child benefit was leaked to the Guardian earlier this week and has been condemned by the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties, which fear contracting out will reduce efficiency, put confidentiality at risk and threaten job losses.

The twin proposals will go some way towards helping the Government reduce the £3 billion cost of administering the benefits system by 25 per

cent in three years. They will also help it in its bid to reduce the Department of Social Security's staff of 88,000 civil servants by more than 20,000. Most will move to the private sector, while others would be made redundant.

Mr King said yesterday that thousands of jobs could be lost and some, or indeed all, benefits could be administered by the private sector in future. His union and the CPSSA would be consulting their members about what action to take. Industrial action could not be ruled out, and this might well include

refusing to pay child benefit to the nation's mothers.

"The Government is inviting private companies to cherry-pick bits of the agency," Mr King said.

Mr Lilley said yesterday: "People will continue to get their child benefit, hopefully more efficiently and at less cost to the taxpayer."

"I want to focus that on people in genuine need and avoid cutting benefits. Over £3 billion is spent just on administering benefits."

He added that although many staff at the Child Benefit Centre would continue to

be employed after contracting out, there would, undoubtedly, be fewer jobs in the DSS in the years to come.

Last November Mr Lilley said, in a private letter to William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, that proposed Treasury cuts in the costs of running the Department of Social Security filled him with despair and would have a devastating impact.

Chris Smith, Labour social security spokesman, said that if possible a future Labour government would halt the involvement of the private sector in benefit payments.



Burning flesh as the Phoenix rises

Nick Varley

ON STAGE the lead singer of Dodgy is singing "Staying out for the summer. Playing games in the rain." Below him thousands at the front are wishing they were.

The only moisture falling on them is from hoses, courtesy of the fire brigade, and enough of their own sweat at 4pm on a sweltering day to form a cloud of steam.

The results? The busiest people at this year's Phoenix Festival, co-sponsored by the Guardian, aren't the bands, the stallholders or security but the first-aiders.

Almost 300 medics had treated 800 people by the end of yesterday's first full day — more than in the whole of last year's week-



Liking it hot... Fans at this year's Phoenix Festival, where the bill included Alanis Morissette (top left), feel the sun yesterday. MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

end. Even among those who don't require first aid, there is more red skin than on a Mediterranean beach the morning the first holidaymakers arrive.

The chief medic, Shawn O'Malley, said last night: "Thirty minutes out in it and they've got no chance. We've seen more cases today than in the whole of last year and it's still just the first day. I'm sure we'll be seeing even more tomorrow and on Sunday."

Despite the smell of slowly cooking suntan oil-covered flesh mingling with the burger and noodle stalls, there was no sign that the 35,000 at the Phoenix, at Long Marston, near Stratford-upon-Avon, were prepared to slumber down.

Bjork, who headlines today, this week described Britpop as "something very boring I don't really like. Like bread or potatoes: no taste but it fills you up. Dance music on the other

hand is cherries and tequila — the extremes. Chocolate mousse with 9,000 billion calories and a steak with it."

Yesterday the menu included everything from the low-cal Alanis Morissette to the chaotic new-wave cuisine of the Frodody. For the picky who didn't fancy any of the live music there was a comedy stage, a dance tent, and even a celebrity five-a-side football tournament.

Bus driver to be questioned on school crash

Hannah Pool

THE driver of the bus which plunged into a bridge and injured 51 children and one adult will be interviewed by police today after it emerged that he ignored road signs banning double-decker buses.

An investigation into the accident by Cheshire county council officials found that the bus, which was carrying children from Palace Fields primary school, Runcorn, did not have a permit to be on the road.

Three children and the adult were still in hospital last night. Injuries on the bus would have been worse were it not for the quick thinking of Ryan McGibbon, aged 10.

Ryan, who was sitting at the front of the top deck of the bus, shouted at his friends when he saw the bridge approaching. The youngster, who escaped with minor cuts and bruises, said: "I saw the bridge coming and I just shouted to everyone to duck. The roof just caved in on everybody."

He added: "Everyone shouted at the driver that it was the wrong way but he said it was a short cut."

The bus was travelling along a route restricted for the past 30 years to single-decker buses. Peter Cocker,

council engineer, said: "We have very strict, very clear and very well known rules about who can and who can't use Runcorn Busway."

"Only registered bus services are able to use the busway. To register, an operator must be providing a regular bus service with single-decker buses. One-off operators, tour companies and occasional users cannot register and are therefore banned from the route."

Yesterday, the headteacher at Palace Fields, Joe Moyston, said it was common knowledge that double deckers are banned from that route.

Dobson's bus company was on a recommendation list given to schools. Mr Moyston said: "Cheshire education authority have used Dobson's for some time, in fact since the eighties, and they are an established company. Anyone would expect contracted drivers to know the way, but we can't comment on the cause of the accident as we must wait for the results from the police investigation."

A spokesman for Dobson's Buses of Cheshire said: "We extend our heartfelt sympathy to all those injured and to their families."

"The company will co-operate fully with the official inquiry into the circumstances leading up to this terribly sad incident."

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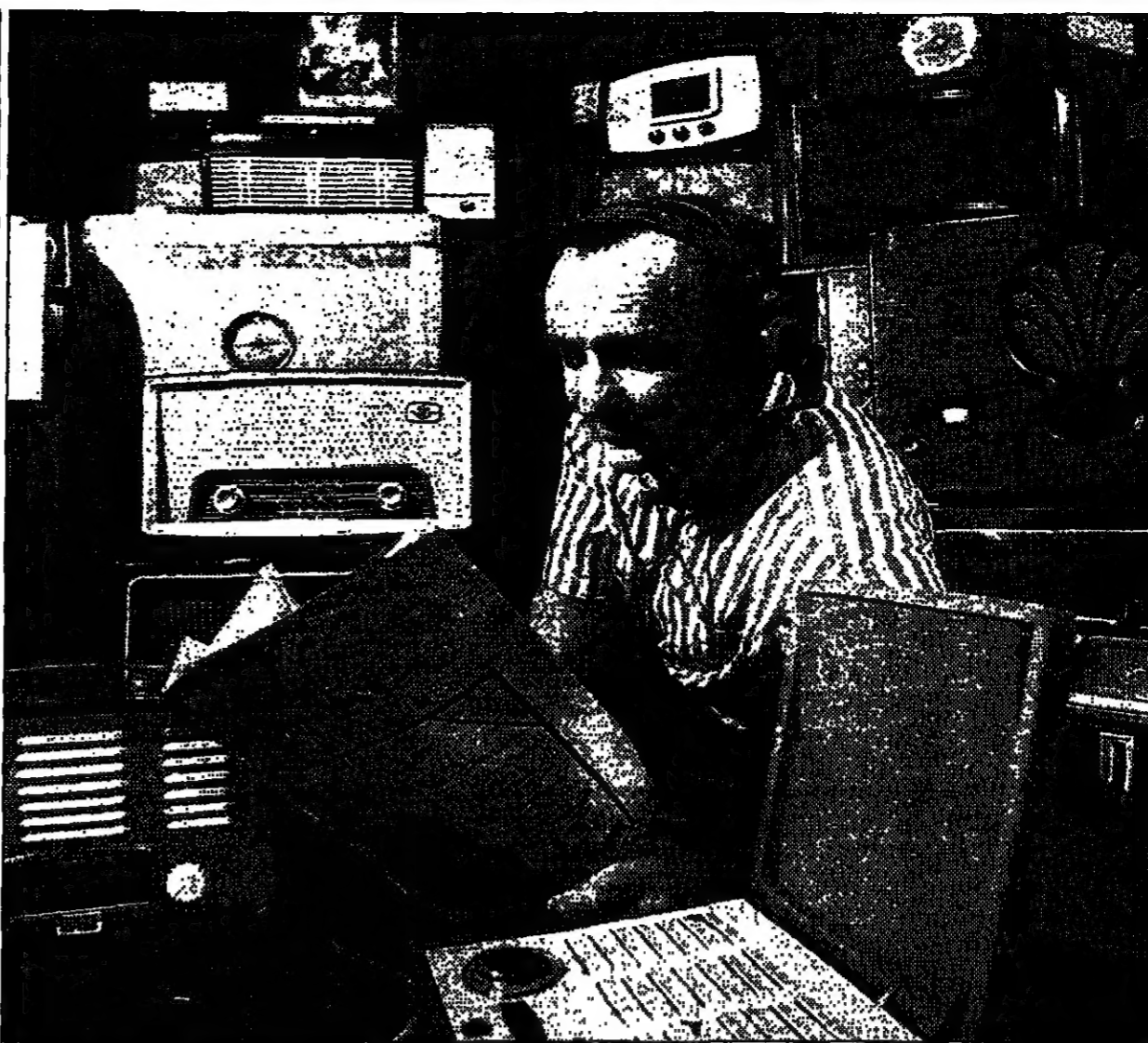
Sam Younger, managing director of the World Service, says the changes at the BBC pose no threat to its role as a trusted source of information in closed societies

"THIS is to inform you that the news about the reform of the BBC World Service touches our people here with cold hands," writes Burmese students. They describe vividly how the BBC can be heard everywhere in Burma. The military regime has "shut our eyes, as a country in the dark. People listen to the BBC every morning and night. Please keep the BBC World Service, don't split it, please let Burmese people rely on BBC."

World Service programmes are now increasingly available on FM as well as short wave, there is a dedicated and growing audience. Over the years, the main topic that has made the headlines has been funding — indeed, the Burmese service itself was nearly a victim of financial cutbacks in the early 1980s, but was revived. Today funding is still a central issue. This year's cuts have only affected the money the World Service is allocated for capital investment. Next year, further reductions are planned by the Government, not just in the capital budget but also, more worryingly, in the budget for broadcasting operations. We are committed to a prospective shortfall of £5 million. The closure of some language services will be the only solution if the planning figures are not changed. Today's concern, however, is not just about funding. It also centres on the very structure of the World Service and how it fits into the BBC as a whole as the corporation pre-

pare itself for the digital age. Should the World Service be exempt from the restructuring of the BBC — should it stand alone and beat its own path into the 21st century? And should our listeners be so concerned? That they are concerned is a measure of the esteem in which the service is held. Much has been written about the need to preserve the ethos of the World Service; in particular, the need to protect the relationships within Bush House between the newsroom and their colleagues in more than 40 language services — like a "United Nations that actually works," as one distinguished former colleague described it. When the restructuring was announced last month, the answer was not immediately clear. Much detail had to be worked out to establish arrangements that would work effectively for our listeners. More work has to be done, but some of the most important aspects have already been agreed and I believe they can work. The World Service will remain a specific entity in its own right, responsible for the key relationship with the Foreign Office, and will have full managerial and editorial control of all programme commissioning. News and daily programmes will be commissioned by the current editor

from a team that will remain a distinct unit dedicated to World Service output. The World Service will be involved in key editorial appointments, and in staff training and development. Similar arrangements for non-daily news programmes and the rest of our English programmes — music, drama, sport and much more — are currently being worked out, as are the details of how technical resources will be provided. But as with news, the arrangements will have to guarantee the distinctive nature of our programming and the supply of information to non-English services, whose programmes will continue to be produced as well as commissioned by the World Service itself. Over the long term, I believe the changes could help us to improve programme quality and reduce costs. For BBC audiences overseas as well as here at home, there is much to be said for ensuring the BBC as a whole has the world's most comprehensive and professional newsgathering operation. So long as governments sustain their commitment to proper funding for the World Service, listeners around the world can be quite sure that it will still be there to rely on. Their eyes will remain open.



Stephen Denham of Wakefield Museum with part of Britain's biggest collection of radios, now on show at the museum. Mr Denham said: "These fine examples of craftsmanship seem to speak to people in the same way as the excellence and accuracy of the World Service. It would be an enormous shame if chunks were chopped out of the service. Once a reputation like the World Service's has been lost, it is almost impossible to reclaim"

My World Service

Peter Temple-Morris MP

IN 1964 I married my Persian bride and adopted a second country and culture. Out to Tehran with our children we would go and in the cool of the garden, under the trees, lunch would be served. At precisely 2pm each day a short-wave radio would be brought to the table and everyone would go silent to listen to the BBC World Service news. For the first time in my life I realised the importance of the service, its quality and its truth to foreign audiences and countries, national leaders, Beirut hostages, Mr Gorbachev in his August 1989 Crimea confinement and all the many others.



Ever since I have tried to promote and defend the service. It has not always been easy. Lady Thatcher, when Prime Minister, did not always have an easy relationship with the BBC. When one adds to this attitudes towards the Foreign Office and public service broadcasting one is in a sense grateful that it has all survived.

That said, the World Service had to struggle and was repeatedly under one assault or another. A typical case in point was the long campaign necessary to bring World Service Television News into being. A quicker and more constructive response from Government would have got it off the ground before CNN became as well established as it did in the mid-1980s. But I must emphasise the constructive side. The World Service is stronger, more audible and more listened to than ever. It is appreciated and encouraged by the Foreign Office and by Government and Opposition. At the beginning of this Parliament no fewer than 425 members signed a motion to protect the World Service budget. A further motion currently put before the House on the proposed BBC changes and World Service funding stands with little effort at some 240 signatures and rising. All this is because we see

the World Service as something very special — a jewel in the BBC's crown and indeed a major national asset. There is something odd about such a plus factor for Britain being under threat of financial cutbacks, let alone faced with major structural reorganisation. The BBC stands responsible for the World Service. The Government must make proper financial provision for it and watch over its well-being. **Your views** E-mail your views or experiences of the World Service from anywhere in the world to savebush@guardian.co.uk (BBC employees welcome). Readers with access to the Internet can browse through Guardian articles and feedback from other readers on our special Internet site, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/savebush/>

Labour pledges to review plan

Martin Kettle

LABOUR increased the pressure on the BBC to reconsider its proposed World Service changes last night by promising to conduct a review in its first year in office. Speaking in London, Robin Cook, the shadow foreign secretary, called on BBC director-general John Birt to postpone any changes to the service until there had been proper consultations. Mr Birt has so far refused to suspend his plans, which have been opposed by more than 230 MPs. Mr Cook said Labour believed it was vital that the World Service's distinctive quality and style should be preserved. "That is why I am announcing today that within the first year of a new Labour



government, I will conduct a full review to assess whether any changes to the World Service have undermined the value which we obtain for the grant-in-aid." Describing the World Service as "an extraordinary asset and a vital ambassador for Britain", Mr Cook said it would be irresponsible to allow radical restructuring of the kind proposed by Mr Birt without first being clear it would not harm the World Service and would strengthen it for the future. He added: "I am deeply concerned at the lack of consultation before these proposals were announced. I have, therefore, written to John Birt asking him to postpone making any changes to the organisation of the World Service until there have been proper consultations."

Mr Cook's letter asked the BBC to demonstrate that its proposals would meet four minimum conditions. First, that the World Service's commissioning powers should include the ability to select personnel and production teams and to set quality and production standards and values. Second, while welcoming the announcement that the World Service will retain its own newsroom, Mr Cook insisted that it should come directly under World Service management control and not be subsumed into BBC News. Mr Cook's third condition is that the changes should not result in the World Service having to buy programmes at a higher cost from the BBC. Fourthly, Mr Cook urged that the management of the World Service needed to be represented at the very highest level in the BBC, and that the managing director of the World Service should be included on the BBC's proposed executive committee. Mr Cook's intervention comes only days before Mr Birt and Sir Christopher Bland, are due to meet Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind to explain their plans.

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Dixons There's a great deal going on

6 WORLD NEWS

Pressure grows for electoral reform and job targets

Bonn angers Major with plans for EU

John Palmer in Brussels

GERMAN government proposals put before the Maastricht Treaty review conference would introduce proportional representation (PR) in Britain for the next elections to the European Parliament.

In a separate move also likely to anger John Major's government, the new Irish presidency of the EU is circulating a draft treaty amendment which would oblige governments to give higher priority in future to full employment policies.

British ministers have said they will oppose any move to establish a common electoral system for the European Parliament throughout the EU. They have also signalled opposition to EU mandatory goals on jobs, which might call into question existing commitments to low inflation and monetary stability.

Alone among the 15 EU countries, Britain still operates a "first past the post" system for European elections. The German government now wants the new European Union treaty being negotiated to require all member states either to implement a fully PR system or to guarantee that at least a third of

seats will be allocated on a proportional basis.

There is growing irritation that Britain's first-past-the-post system is distorting the balance of political power in Strasbourg. Over the past 10 years, British Conservatives and Labour have at different times been greatly over-represented.

"The absence of uniformity is one of the main obstacles to the emergence of a public which thinks of itself as European," said Werner Hoyer, Germany's special representative of the Maastricht Treaty review conference. "Indeed it casts doubts on the democratic legitimacy of the European Parliament."

EU governments are also aware that Labour seems ready to introduce PR for elections in Northern Ireland, Scotland and probably in Wales, and has not ruled it out for Europe. Indeed, Tony Blair is being pressed by some of his MEPs to accept PR for Strasbourg if only to insure against a mid-term, anti-government swing in 1999 if Labour wins the next general election. They fear that Labour could lose many of its 69-strong Strasbourg delegation — by far the largest national grouping in the 572-seat assembly.

According to the Irish presidency's draft treaty text on

employment, a special EU committee would be established to check national governments' progress towards meeting targets on jobs. A comparison is bound to be made with the powerful EU monetary committee, which examines the success of member states in meeting the Maastricht treaty criteria for joining a single currency in 1999, although the employment committee would only have an advisory role.

The idea of a special employment chapter in the treaty came from the Swedish government. But it has now been formally adopted by the Irish presidency, which believes it will be supported by what a senior Irish official described yesterday as "a clear majority" of governments. The draft text states that EU governments will accept "their employment policies (will) be a question of common interest".

Meanwhile, pressure is growing on EU governments to take more radical measures to reduce unemployment as part of the strategy for a single currency after 1999. EU social affairs ministers meeting in Dublin last week heard that Europe could be heading for a "jobless recovery" which would do little to reduce the nearly 20 million people looking for work.

Kohl's spending cuts rejected by upper house

Denis Staunton in Berlin

GERMANY'S upper house of parliament, the Bundesrat, yesterday rejected a package of public spending cuts aimed at enabling Germany to qualify for membership of a single European currency in 1999.

The Bundesrat, where the opposition Social Democrats have a majority, voted to refer the 210 billion package to a mediation committee for review next month. But Chancellor Helmut Kohl has warned that he will resist any changes to the package and push it through the Bundesrat in September.

The Social Democrat leader, Oskar Lafontaine, condemned the proposed cuts as misconceived, saying they would hit the poor hardest but fail to reduce public debt.

"The federal government's package of cuts will increase unemployment and public debt. It threatens our country's social harmony and economic stability. That is why it is our duty to correct this package," he said.

The Social Democrats acknowledge the need for spending cuts but the labour minister, Norbert Blum, accused



Oskar Lafontaine: Says the cuts are misconceived

the opposition of failing to offer any alternative to the government's proposals. "You complain that the tax burden is too high but you can only reduce the tax burden if you make savings on the social insurance. I have been searching for years for a patient remedy that makes savings possible without cuts but

it does not exist," he said. The most controversial elements in the package include a public service pay freeze, a 20 per cent cut in sick pay and the removal of employment protection for workers in small firms. Around 300,000 trade unionists took part in a demonstration against the cuts in Bonn last month.

Federal states governed by Dr Kohl's Christian Democrats voted in favour of the government yesterday but some called for changes to the package, reflecting backbenchers' unease about the extent of the measures.

Bavaria's conservative prime minister, Edmund Stoiber, called for pregnant women to be exempted from the reduction in sick pay. But he accused the Social Democrats of making revisions harder by adopting a policy of blinkered obstruction.

"Nothing moves any further because you want to drag everything out to the very end, even if there are some things you cannot change or prevent," he said.

"That means a mediation committee and a vote in the Bundesrat. Whenever your votes are needed you'll vote against it so it will just be left hanging somewhere."



A Russian soldier uses an ammunition box to get a better view of the area around his camp near the Chechen town of Shali. Heavy fighting against separatist guerrillas continues in the south of the region

Kremlin relieves far east blackout

David Hearst in Moscow

EMERGENCY fuel supplies were rushed to Russia's far east yesterday after power cuts blacked out an entire region, trapping miners underground, crippling the city of Vladivostok, and virtually shutting down the air traffic control system.

The main power plant in Primorski Krai shut down for the first time since 1937, and officials reported that the others would run out of fuel today.

The crisis arose after the federal government suddenly stopped paying fuel subsidies — traditionally the highest in Russia — to the region. Within days the regional power plant, Dalenergo, ran out of money for fuel oil.

It may be the first sign of a payments crisis that could affect other Russian regions as well. The state's unpaid wages and other debts are rapidly approaching 30 trillion roubles (£3.9 billion).

The effects of the power cuts have been dramatic. On Thursday 100 miners at Gri-chanka mine were trapped underground without ventilation for an hour. Large areas of the region were without water as the pumps were shut down, and at one point Vladivostok's huge fishing port feared a release of ammonia gas into the atmosphere when the compressors cooling the giant refrigeration plants were in danger of exploding.

In Vladivostok, which has been without power for 15 hours a day, there were reports of bands of irate people sabotaging the power supplies of those districts that still had their lights on. There was fear for the safety of the Pacific Fleet's nuclear submarine base.

The governor of Primorski Krai, Yevgeny Nazdrachenko, flew to Moscow to bang some sense into senior government officials. He told a Vladivostok newspaper that he found total chaos.

"No questions can be resolved here. Some of the government ministers are still celebrating [Yeltsin's] victory, others are on holiday, and the rest are sitting on their suitcases waiting to be sacked."

Tough choices faced on gas emissions

The argument on global warming is won, but now the hard work of convincing voters begins, writes Paul Brown in Geneva

DELEGATES returned home last night from the conference on world climate knowing that their countries must cut carbon dioxide emissions by half in the next half century to mitigate the worst effects of global warming.

Tough political decisions must be made in industrial countries now committed to adopting legally binding limits and achieving significant overall reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Each country must examine policy on energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management, including the implementation of new taxes to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

In the United Kingdom, where moving away from coal in favour of gas has achieved existing targets for peaking carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by 2000, new measures will be needed beyond the turn of the century.

The Government has already instituted landfill taxes in a bid to cut methane emissions from rubbish dumps, and is increasing duty on petrol by 5 per cent a year above inflation in an effort to cut consumption. The Cabinet will have to consider new measures before officials meet again in Geneva in December when negotiations begin on target levels.

The UK currently supports reductions of five to 10 per

cent by 2010 but the Alliance of Small Island States (Aosis) is demanding 20 per cent by 2005, which seems impossible to deliver. A final agreement is expected to be negotiated at the next ministerial session in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997.

For countries like the United States and Japan, both of which are set to exceed their existing stabilisation targets, the political decisions promise to be harder than for Britain. However, both are convinced by the scientific evidence that action is required.

The European Union was instrumental in drawing attention to the limits beyond which the world should not

be allowed to heat up. A doubling of carbon dioxide levels since the Industrial Revolution is expected to cause a rise of 2C. But this effect would be uneven and some areas could warm by up to 7C.

Professor Bert Bolin, the chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said that man's activities had caused levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to rise to 360 parts per million from 280 ppm in pre-industrial times.

By 2060, if there was no reduction in emissions, levels would have reached 560 ppm, enough to raise the temperature by 2C. In fact, if the other greenhouse gases such as methane were taken into account, the equivalent of a doubling of the carbon dioxide levels could have occurred by 2030.

Clearly something must be done urgently if "critical" levels of greenhouse gases were not to be reached, he said.

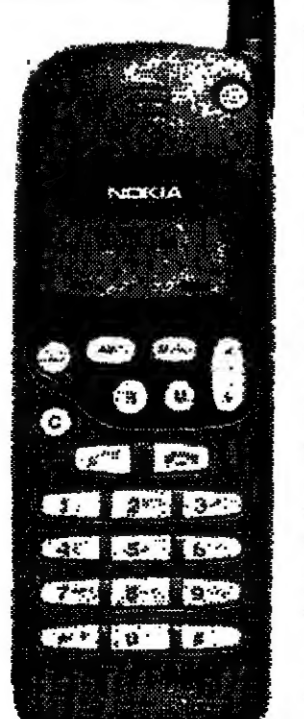
In the original Climate Change Convention signed in 1992 at the Earth Summit, which the politicians were in Geneva to discuss, governments were asked simply not to allow greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to reach "dangerous" levels.

So far the politicians have not defined what is meant by dangerous and Professor Bolin also refused to define it. However, he did say: "If a 2C increase is critical, then you are out to exceed it."

Professor Martin Parry, from University College London, said that a critical level of climate change was one to which natural systems could not adapt.

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Hungary hard on Gypsies

Nick Thorpe in Budapest

DESPITE attempts to improve rights for the Gypsy population of Hungary, a Human Rights Watch report this week highlights police mistreatment of the minority and claims they face inbuilt discrimination in the country's education system.

According to the report by the New York-based organisation, "endemic discrimination against Roma appears to be growing, even as Hungary is transforming itself".

The cases in the 150-page report include allegations of violence committed against Gypsies — followed either by police apathy or police violence towards the victims.

Among the report's recommendations are that police be re-trained, that all police interrogations be recorded, and that police suspected of being responsible for violence be prosecuted.

The biggest social conflict is between the Roma as a whole, and the police as a whole," Aladar Horvath, director of the foundation for Roma civil rights in Budapest, said. "As well as their everyday prejudices... individual police have much too much power, and they abuse it."

Otto Heinek, the deputy president of the office for national and ethnic minorities, points out that elected Roma councils have been operating for 18 months, adding: "Legally speaking, much has already been achieved."

But everyday discrimination is harder to counter. A quarter of Hungary's estimated half million Gypsies live in the capital, with the rest scattered in ghettos on the edge of towns and villages. Their non-Gypsy neighbours claim that they burn their stairs for firewood, and routinely steal.

Human Rights Watch found most evidence of discrimination in education. Researchers found many children were automatically put into the remedial class "on sight" — because of the darkness of their skin, regardless of their educational ability.

The "Gandhi" secondary school for Gypsies was established two years ago in the southern town of Peecs, but some have asked whether such schools mean the Roma are giving up hope of getting equal opportunities in ordinary schools.

"Roma schools are a form of self-segregation," Aladar Horvath said, "but at least they give Roma parents a choice of where to send their children."

Moro's killer jailed three days after life sentence

Reuter in Rome

THE MAN convicted of carrying out one of Italy's most shocking crimes — the 1978 kidnap and murder of the former prime minister Aldo Moro — was arrested yesterday, three days after he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Germano Maccari was found guilty on Tuesday of being one of two killers who shot the Christian Democrat leader after he had been held for 55 days in a Rome apartment.

Maccari, who was arrested at his home in the capital, was not jailed after the sentence because, under Italian law, convicted criminals are often allowed to remain free until they have exhausted the appeals process.

But a Rome court ruled yesterday in favour of a request by the prosecution to detain him in case he fled before an appeal.

"This had to be done after a sentencing for such grave crimes," Rome's public prosecutor Antonio Marini said.

Moro's murder is generally regarded as marking the height of the leftwing Red Brigades' campaign of violence in the 1970s.

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July 20 1996

Salvadoreans are discovering the truth about what happened to hundreds of children lost during the civil war, writes Steve Fainaru

El Salvador seeks its lost generation

ELSY Dubón Romero lost everything but her name one afternoon in 1982. As her mother cowered behind a thorn bush, and her father lay dead, a soldier grabbed the 7-year-old girl and loaded her on to a helicopter, which rose and disappeared into the blank sky.

Thus began her new life. From an army base, to a Red Cross shelter, she was shuttled finally to an orphanage near San Salvador. There she grew up, ordered never to talk about what had happened, and told her family was dead.

It was not until 12 years later when she was married and pregnant — did she learn that her mother, Francisca, was alive, along with five brothers and sisters.

"It all came back to me when I saw their faces," she said, quietly sobbing.

Four years after the end of El Salvador's civil war, the country is discovering the truth about what happened to hundreds of its lost children: they were seized from villages by the American-backed military and falsely written off as war orphans, even as relatives spent years searching for them or clinging to hope that they were safe.

Many were abducted by soldiers as part of a wider practice of removing children from battlefields, sometimes from their mothers' arms. The practice — unreported during the war — was known to at least one United States military adviser, who now says he saw it as a humanitarian gesture.

Some children were doled out to wealthy Salvadorean families and military officers. Some were raised on military bases as mascots. Others were taken to so-called *casas de acogida*, literally "homes for fostering up", before poorly regulated foreign adoptions that cost as much as \$13,000.

Last month, the drama reached the US. Through DNA testing by the Boston-based Physicians for Human Rights, investigators proved that the long-lost daughter of José and Victoria Lafnez, two peasants, was living in Youngstown, Ohio, her name changed from Imelda to Gina. But "I mean, there wasn't any way we adopted her believing her parents had been killed."

The girl, now aged 17, was snatched from a bed when she was six during an attack in 1984 on a clandestine guerrilla hospital. She wound up at a state-run orphanage, later to be declared "morally and materially abandoned" by a Salvadorean judge during a 15-minute hearing with the Ohio couple. Despite her adoption, the girl had long maintained her parents were alive.

On Thursday Gina met her natural parents in a tearful reunion in Los Cocos, El Salvador. "I feel like I'm back home," she said. "All the faces look so familiar."

Until now, the children have been like missing footnotes from a cold war conflict that killed 75,000 Salvadoreans and about two dozen Americans, and cost the US government \$6 billion in its decade-long effort to help the Central American country's government stamp out a Marxist insurgency.

THE issue has been buried under other human rights abuses linked to the Salvadorean military, including the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the murder of six Jesuit priests, and massacres.

Adolfo Blandón, a general, now retired, who was El Salvador's chief of staff from 1982 to 1989, acknowledged that children were taken from war zones, but said he was

unaware of the scale of the problem until recently.

"I admit that I committed an error to not have complete control over these children," he said. "But I never felt that it was a very big problem. I believe it was an error of the military high command."

Gen Blandón, who said he never discussed the issue of displaced children in his strategy sessions with US advisers, now claims that the Salvadorean Red Cross, after failing to verify whether parents of children taken by the military were still alive, delivered them to wealthy local families, military officials, orphanages and even US military advisers.

"I know that various [US] advisers, especially couples that did not have children, took advantage of the opportunity to carry out these children."

US officials who served in El Salvador confirmed that military advisers, as well as US embassy staff, were among the Americans who adopted 2,354 Salvadorean children during the war. But they said the adoptions were legal.

IN A country of 6 million people, the Association in Search of Disappeared Children is investigating 200 cases of children who vanished during the war. The group has located 29 of them — including three cases confirmed through DNA testing. It has traced 151 disappearances to the military.

"Some children ended up in the US, the groups believe, because of a booming child-trafficking business."

According to people with experience in Salvadorean adoptions, the US embassy ignored widespread abuses, including what Gen Blandón alleged was the "complicity of everyone, from immigration officials to judges to unscrupulous lawyers".

As a result, well-meaning Americans adopted children whose backgrounds were never adequately checked.

Sharon Hamilton, an embassy nurse in 1982-83, recalled: "There was a war going on, and I guess we knew that they weren't orphans, that they were being stolen. But I mean, there wasn't any way to find their parents."

She said: "I really feel badly now that these kids were taken from their parents, but nobody thought they would be going to a bad place."

In fact, the welfare of the children today, a decade later, has left many wrestling with the legal and ethical issues of reuniting families with children who have grown up in separate worlds.

Rev Jon de Cortina, the co-founder of the Association in Search of Disappeared Children, said: "The only thing we want is for the lost children to know their identities, to know who they are and where they came from. And the family has a right to know how their child is."

But it remains unclear whether this severed so bluntly can ever be mended.

In 1982, a six-month-old boy named Nelson Anivar Ramos was taken from his mother's arms and placed on a helicopter in Chalatenango province. Located by the Association two years ago in the same private orphanage where Ely was found, the 12-year-old boy's name had been changed to Juan Carlos Serrano. He wore jeans, listened to Michael Jackson and dreamed of becoming an accountant.

For the boy's mother, a peasant named María Magdalena Ramos who lives in a hamlet called San Antonio Los Ranchos, the reconciliation was a godsend. Asked how he felt, Juan Carlos said: "I felt nothing. I felt no love for her. It is difficult to think of her as my mother."



Amilcar Guardiola, aged 21, is reunited with his cousins in Las Vueltas, El Salvador. Soldiers killed his mother and brother beside the Sumpul River when he was five, and he grew up as the surrogate son of an army officer. Below: The Ohio teenager Gina, baptised Imelda, who was reunited with her natural parents on Thursday. PHOTOGRAPHS: JAMET KNOTT



In May 1982, Salvadorean military helicopters and trucks descended on Chalatenango in an operation recalled locally as the "May Massacre".

For a week, the troops killed hundreds of civilians, torched villages, burned crops and chased thousands of peasants into the mountains. The operation included the Bellosco Battalion — nicknamed the "Gringo Battalion" because it was trained in the US.

After days of fleeing with her mother and her six-month-old son Nelson, María Magdalena, then 16, was awakened one morning by the sounds of soldiers and gunfire. She tried to run but a soldier grabbed her by the arm and led her away.

"There were already about 200 people there, and they were taking away the children. Then they began to use their radios to call the

'I feel like I'm back home. All the faces look so familiar'

— Gina (Imelda), the daughter of José and Victoria Lafnez

helicopters and they began to take away the kids."

"It was in the second [helicopter] they took my baby. My mother threw herself over him, and we begged them that if they had to kill us to please kill us all with the baby. They told us: 'No, the young ones don't have to suffer because of you.'"

"When it took off with my baby a soldier said to me: 'Don't cry... those children, they're going to serve the government.'"

The Association in Search of Disappeared Children has what it calls credible evidence of 86 cases of children taken from their families during the May Massacre.

After initially denying that children were separated from their parents, Salvadorean military officials now acknowledge that some were evacuated, but only after being abandoned.

But others believe that the

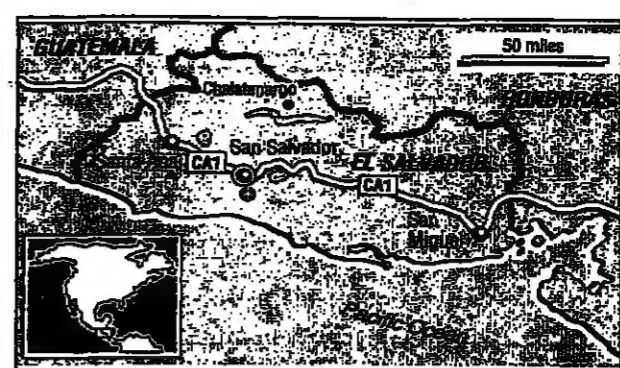
military's purpose was to inflict terror and prevent the emergence of another generation of guerrillas without resorting to the murder of children, as occurred during other government massacres at El Mozote and Sumpul.

"They committed crimes, and now they're trying to hide the crimes," said Rev De Cortina. "They are shading these crimes with a humanitarian tint."

During the war, both the US-backed military and the leftwing guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) tried to enlist children.

Army brigades threw parties for children with soldiers dressed as clowns. The rebels employed small children as sentries, mules and scouts.

Commanders ordered troops to evacuate children, military officials claim. A retired colonel, Sigifredo Ochoa Pérez, said the



Recent history:
 March 1982: Decades of military rule and with election of Constituent Assembly; civil war between FMLN guerrillas and US-backed government troops intensifies.
 1985-1991: Numerous rounds of peace talks are held between the government and guerrillas. Fighting continues.
 January, 1992: Peace plan signed in Mexico City; UN monitors transition.
 March 1993: "Truth Commission" reports on death-squad atrocities.
 March 1994: First post-war presidential elections won by Amado Calderón Sol of the ultra-right Arena party.

The facts:
 Population: 6 million
 Area: 8,124 square miles
 GNP: per capita (purchasing power parity, US\$100): 9.3 (1994)
 Life expectancy: 67
 Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) 42 (1994, US by comparison =8)
 Adult literacy: 29 per cent (1995)
 Value of foreign debt: 20 per cent of GNP
 Main exports: coffee, cotton, sugar.

Left: A scale of the US-backed government forces in action during El Salvador's civil war.

Association in Search of Disappeared Children, said he believes the children were taken as a way of easing soldiers' consciences.

"It was demoralising to the troops to kill children and also reinforcing to them to take them away," he said. "It also made the families more afraid."

As the May Massacre continued into June 1982, Francisca Romero and her family fled north towards Honduras. But they were cut off by government troops. In the chaos, Francisca hid behind a bush with her 2-year-old son and watched in horror as a soldier grabbed Ely and dragged her and several other children to a helicopter.

"One old fat soldier was shouting that they should kill them," said Francisca. "But another one said: 'No, no, we have to take them.'"

"You can't imagine how one's heart can be crushed to see these kinds of things. It's a wound that doesn't heal."

Ely was seven at the time and remembers how government troops shot her father and — as she stood crying over his body — scooped her up.

In Chalatenango city, she stayed with about 50 children in a house run by the Red Cross. "The Red Cross people told us we shouldn't tell anyone what happened to us," said Ely. Now 21, she is married with a two-year-old son and was reunited with her mother two years ago.

The Geneva Convention states: "Children shall be provided with the care and aid they require, and in particular all appropriate steps shall be taken to facilitate the reunion of families temporarily separated."

But the Salvadorean Red Cross, which prides itself on humanitarian neutrality, did not assume that role. Instead, it acted as a courier for the military. Critics say it allowed children to disappear into the vortex of war. Its role has led to inquiries from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Janice Elmora, a US embassy officer from 1986 to 1990, said both the ICRC and the Salvadorean Red Cross sided with the military during the war — despite claims of neutrality.

"The Red Cross was not exactly an unbiased observer," said Ms Elmora.

The Association in Search

of Disappeared Children has tried to obtain records of children transported by the Red Cross. But officials said a 1986 earthquake destroyed most of the records.

Catherine Martin, a former ICRC delegate in El Salvador now at its office in Geneva, said she encourages the local Red Cross to co-operate.

But she doubted that children had been abandoned. "You know how it works in Central America," she said. "It's very common to abandon a child..."

CHILDREN have been located as far away as France and Italy and as near as the main Salvadorean air force base outside San Salvador. In the village of Lisano Grande, residents said troops poured over a nearby mountain one day and handed out children.

"An officer came by and he told us they were looking for help from the community," said Benjamin Casco Palma, aged 68. "They said the children they had were orphans."

At Children's Village SOS, a private orphanage in a San Salvador suburb, investigators discovered eight missing children. Still unclear is how many of the missing children ended up among the thousands who were adopted during the war. Whether a child was adopted often depended on an orphanage's policy.

But while the children adjusted to their new lives, their parents continued to flee the terror of their old ones.

After losing her infant son Nelson — later renamed Juan Carlos Serrano — María Magdalena Ramos escaped to a refugee camp in Honduras. For the next 12 years she had a recurring nightmare: "I remembered [the soldiers] told me he was going to serve the government, and all the while I was counting his birthdays in my head," she said. "I thought that if this war doesn't end, and he joins the army he could come here and kill me without knowing I'm his mother."

But the torment didn't end even after she was reunited with her son. On that day in Chalatenango, Juan Carlos was sullen and disoriented. He didn't recognise his natural mother. No longer Nelson Anivar Ramos, the boy stared at his mother. "Why did you abandon me?" he asked. — The Boston Globe.

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Newmarket with TV form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 2.10 Food Brokers, 2.45 Hurdle, 3.15 Hurdle, 3.45 Hurdle, 4.15 Hurdle, 4.45 Hurdle, 5.20 Hurdle, 5.50 Hurdle, 6.20 Hurdle, 6.50 Hurdle, 7.20 Hurdle, 7.50 Hurdle, 8.20 Hurdle, 8.50 Hurdle, 9.20 Hurdle, 9.50 Hurdle.

Racing

Roberts takes over on Pentire if Hills appeal fails

Michael Hills has decided to appeal against the suspension which stands in the way of his riding the favourite Pentire in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot next Saturday.

market Heath on Sunday morning. "Pentire is in very good shape," said the colt's trainer, Geoff Wragg. "He is a game little horse, and I don't think a change of rider would bother him."

Roberts has twice won the big race, on Mito in 1988 and on Opera House in 1993. Pentire finished a neck behind Lammtarra in the King George last year, and ran respectably on easy ground which did not suit him ideally when third to Halling and Bijou d'Inde in the Coral Eclipse two weeks ago.

John Carroll and Jimmy Fortune both missed winners at Musselburgh yesterday. Carroll had transport problems and failed to reach the course. One of his intended mounts, Sweeping Statement, landed the seller with Jimmy Quinn departing.

Having watched video recordings of the Doncaster race before yesterday's Newbury meeting, Hills said: "I am appealing and I hope to get my case put to the Jockey Club Disciplinary Committee on Wednesday at 8am on Wednesday to hear Hills's case. He finished third on Polness at Doncaster on Wednesday evening, but his mount was demoted and the jockey banned for three days for careless riding, his third offence of the season."

Michael Caulfield, president of the Jockeys' Association, also viewed the evidence. "We don't advise jockeys to go to Portman Square if we don't think they've got a very good case," he said. "We are confident we have seen enough to convince the committee that the findings were incorrect at Doncaster."

Maguire, 25, was rated a future champion when he first came to Britain, but he had his progress hampered by a catalogue of injuries. His tale of woe last year began in April last year when a broken arm ruled him out for four months. He then cracked a bone in his leg at Ascot and suffered a damaged knee injury last season before his Newbury victory.

Newbury with TV form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1.30 Hurdle, 2.00 Hurdle, 2.30 Hurdle, 3.00 Hurdle, 3.30 Hurdle, 4.00 Hurdle, 4.30 Hurdle, 5.00 Hurdle, 5.30 Hurdle, 6.00 Hurdle, 6.30 Hurdle, 7.00 Hurdle, 7.30 Hurdle, 8.00 Hurdle, 8.30 Hurdle, 9.00 Hurdle, 9.30 Hurdle.

BBC-1

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1.30 Hurdle, 2.00 Hurdle, 2.30 Hurdle, 3.00 Hurdle, 3.30 Hurdle, 4.00 Hurdle, 4.30 Hurdle, 5.00 Hurdle, 5.30 Hurdle, 6.00 Hurdle, 6.30 Hurdle, 7.00 Hurdle, 7.30 Hurdle, 8.00 Hurdle, 8.30 Hurdle, 9.00 Hurdle, 9.30 Hurdle.

BBC-1

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 2.00 Hurdle, 2.30 Hurdle, 3.00 Hurdle, 3.30 Hurdle, 4.00 Hurdle, 4.30 Hurdle, 5.00 Hurdle, 5.30 Hurdle, 6.00 Hurdle, 6.30 Hurdle, 7.00 Hurdle, 7.30 Hurdle, 8.00 Hurdle, 8.30 Hurdle, 9.00 Hurdle, 9.30 Hurdle.

BBC-1

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 2.30 Hurdle, 3.00 Hurdle, 3.30 Hurdle, 4.00 Hurdle, 4.30 Hurdle, 5.00 Hurdle, 5.30 Hurdle, 6.00 Hurdle, 6.30 Hurdle, 7.00 Hurdle, 7.30 Hurdle, 8.00 Hurdle, 8.30 Hurdle, 9.00 Hurdle, 9.30 Hurdle.

Nottingham runners and riders

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 2.30 Hurdle, 3.00 Hurdle, 3.30 Hurdle, 4.00 Hurdle, 4.30 Hurdle, 5.00 Hurdle, 5.30 Hurdle, 6.00 Hurdle, 6.30 Hurdle, 7.00 Hurdle, 7.30 Hurdle, 8.00 Hurdle, 8.30 Hurdle, 9.00 Hurdle, 9.30 Hurdle.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 4.00 Hurdle, 4.30 Hurdle, 5.00 Hurdle, 5.30 Hurdle, 6.00 Hurdle, 6.30 Hurdle, 7.00 Hurdle, 7.30 Hurdle, 8.00 Hurdle, 8.30 Hurdle, 9.00 Hurdle, 9.30 Hurdle.

Ayr tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 2.30 Hurdle, 3.00 Hurdle, 3.30 Hurdle, 4.00 Hurdle, 4.30 Hurdle, 5.00 Hurdle, 5.30 Hurdle, 6.00 Hurdle, 6.30 Hurdle, 7.00 Hurdle, 7.30 Hurdle, 8.00 Hurdle, 8.30 Hurdle, 9.00 Hurdle, 9.30 Hurdle.

Warwick tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 2.30 Hurdle, 3.00 Hurdle, 3.30 Hurdle, 4.00 Hurdle, 4.30 Hurdle, 5.00 Hurdle, 5.30 Hurdle, 6.00 Hurdle, 6.30 Hurdle, 7.00 Hurdle, 7.30 Hurdle, 8.00 Hurdle, 8.30 Hurdle, 9.00 Hurdle, 9.30 Hurdle.

2.10 FOOD BROKERS-ALYSTARINE HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 5100-0 TOP GIBBS (14) M, 2. 5100-0 BROADBENT (14) M, 3. 5100-0 CASUAL WALTER (14) M, 4. 5100-0 SUGAR HILL (14) M, 5. 5100-0 PLAYBOY (14) M, 6. 5100-0 WELLS (14) M, 7. 5100-0 WELLS (14) M, 8. 5100-0 WELLS (14) M, 9. 5100-0 WELLS (14) M, 10. 5100-0 WELLS (14) M.

2.45 HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 2. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 3. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 4. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 5. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 6. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 7. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 8. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 9. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 10. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M.

3.15 HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 202-02 HURDLE (14) M, 2. 202-02 HURDLE (14) M, 3. 202-02 HURDLE (14) M, 4. 202-02 HURDLE (14) M, 5. 202-02 HURDLE (14) M, 6. 202-02 HURDLE (14) M, 7. 202-02 HURDLE (14) M, 8. 202-02 HURDLE (14) M, 9. 202-02 HURDLE (14) M, 10. 202-02 HURDLE (14) M.

3.45 HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 2. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 3. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 4. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 5. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 6. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 7. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 8. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 9. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 10. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M.

4.15 HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 13-02 POLARIS (14) M, 2. 13-02 POLARIS (14) M, 3. 13-02 POLARIS (14) M, 4. 13-02 POLARIS (14) M, 5. 13-02 POLARIS (14) M, 6. 13-02 POLARIS (14) M, 7. 13-02 POLARIS (14) M, 8. 13-02 POLARIS (14) M, 9. 13-02 POLARIS (14) M, 10. 13-02 POLARIS (14) M.

4.45 HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 402-01 GAINY (14) M, 2. 402-01 GAINY (14) M, 3. 402-01 GAINY (14) M, 4. 402-01 GAINY (14) M, 5. 402-01 GAINY (14) M, 6. 402-01 GAINY (14) M, 7. 402-01 GAINY (14) M, 8. 402-01 GAINY (14) M, 9. 402-01 GAINY (14) M, 10. 402-01 GAINY (14) M.

5.20 HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 2. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 3. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 4. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 5. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 6. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 7. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 8. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 9. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 10. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M.

5.50 HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 2. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 3. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 4. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 5. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 6. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 7. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 8. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 9. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 10. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M.

Ripon

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 2.30 Hurdle, 3.00 Hurdle, 3.30 Hurdle, 4.00 Hurdle, 4.30 Hurdle, 5.00 Hurdle, 5.30 Hurdle, 6.00 Hurdle, 6.30 Hurdle, 7.00 Hurdle, 7.30 Hurdle, 8.00 Hurdle, 8.30 Hurdle, 9.00 Hurdle, 9.30 Hurdle.

2.35 HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 2. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 3. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 4. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 5. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 6. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 7. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 8. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 9. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 10. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M.

3.10 HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 2. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 3. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 4. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 5. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 6. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 7. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 8. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 9. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 10. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M.

3.40 HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 2. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 3. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 4. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 5. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 6. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 7. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 8. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 9. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 10. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M.

4.10 HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 2. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 3. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 4. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 5. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 6. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 7. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 8. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 9. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 10. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M.

4.40 HURDLE

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5.10 HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Races include 1. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 2. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 3. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 4. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 5. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 6. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 7. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 8. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 9. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M, 10. 0-01025 HURDLE (11) M.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race name and winner. Races include Musselburgh, Southwell, Ripon, Warwick, etc. Includes details of winners and odds.

2. Astor Place, who is trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam, will be the sole British runner in the Group Two Prix Maurice de Neuil at Maisons-Laffitte tomorrow following the defections of Luso and Bahamian Knight. John Reid rides.

3. Sarasota Storm is becoming a standing dish at Musselburgh. Michael Bell's four-year-old, who has never won at any other track, clinched his third course success there yesterday in the Waverley Mining Handicap.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page for 'Nervous Wave' and 'Rugby League South Wales'.

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THE OLYMPIC GAMES

THE BBC CONNECTION: Frank Keating meets Britain's best-known Olympic commentator . . .

Coleman mustered one more time

DAVID COLEMAN is off and running. Last night he described his 10th opening ceremony for BBC television. He was 70 this year.

The extravagant gala nonsense was no more than a training center for Coleman's larynx and adjectival thesaurus. He has a week yet till he settles at his blocks, bites his tongue for that split second of stillness and quietude before, at a single lightning gun, shot, his world explodes into noise and activity and eight men come at him full pelt diagonally from his left — and he has less than 10 seconds not only to identify them and call the race but to judge which one is a millimetre ahead or a millisecond behind. Ten seconds is a long time in commentating.

Three score years and 10, and the squawking eminence

the hot favourite was the local lad, one Alexandros Chalkokondilos. One mention of his name would have near used up the 12.6sec the fellow finished in.

But Coleman knows the feeling. "In the 1968 Games in Mexico the Greeks had another sprinter, and a good one too, called Papagiorgopoulos, and there was also a Madagascan called Ravelomanatsos. I just hoped, for my sake, the two of them would be blown away."

"No such luck. When they both qualified from their heats I couldn't believe it. I honestly used to pray at night they would be eliminated before the final."

"Merely the Greek boy was, but Ravelomanatsos, who had the Christian name Jean-Louis further to complicate matters, did go all the way — although for my good fortune he was last in the final so he didn't demand a mention till the race had been won by Jim Hines."

Coleman won the Manchester Mile as a club runner in 1949. After an apprenticeship on local newspapers, his first commentary for BBC TV was on May 6 1954, the day Roger Bannister became the first man to run the mile under four minutes.

Having begun as a news reporter, Coleman was forced to revert to the role at the Munich Games of 1972 when terrorists held hostage a group of Israelis in the Olympic village. Eleven men were to die. His live hour-upon-hour commentary with pictures from just one locked-off camera riveted the nation. It was a broadcast of sustained and moving brilliance. "It was a day that changed the face of the Olympics, and of world sport, forever," says Coleman.

He reckons he nearly did not get past his first Olympics. He was interviewing Britain's swimming gold medalist Anita Lonsbrough at the poolside in Rome. "She was still dripping wet and, with all the electrical cables lying about, I was told later we were both in grave danger of being electrocuted if my microphone had touched her."

Coleman has always been



Really quite remarkable . . . David Coleman has been commentating for the BBC for 42 years

'I couldn't believe it. I honestly used to pray at night they would be eliminated before the final'

of David Coleman OBE was further acknowledged this spring with his special award for lifetime achievement from the Royal Television Society.

The first Olympic 100 metres he described was at Rome in 1960. Armin Hary, the self-coached Frankfurt office-worker, won it in a record-breaking blur in 10.2sec. Hary, Hayes, Hines, Borzov, Crawford, Wells, Lewis, Johnson, Christie . . . Coleman has been lucky that successive Olympic sprint champions have had surnames of no more than two syllables.

He admits he would not have been confident at his microphone as they lined up for the 100 metres at the first modern Olympics in Athens exactly a century ago, when

touchy about giving his name to Private Eye's long-running column of commentators' gaffes, Colemanballs. He insists that most of the tautology attributed to him had in fact been uttered by others. Certainly, he says, it was not

he who announced at Montreal's 800 metres in 1976 the immortal "and now Juanitrona opens his legs and shows his ciss".

Another moment that has been on his back ever since, he admits, came eight years earlier at Mexico City, when he became so carried away at the winning resplendency by a clear eight metres of Britain's David Henry in the 400m hurdles that he shrieked across the ocean: "And who cares who's third?" Well, as it

happens, John Sherwood of Sheffield did — as he took the gallant bronze medal to go with the silver won only hours before in the long jump by his wife Sheila. Says Coleman: "It is a fair criticism that we do occasionally get

overenthusiastic, but there is always a great deal of excitement and pressure in the commentary box."

These Olympics are possibly the biggest international operation the BBC has mounted. It has shipped about 35 tonnes of equipment into the home of CNN television in Atlanta and, for the first time from an Olympics, the BBC will be relaying its pictures back to the UK using fibre-optic cable under the Atlantic.



Thinking big . . . Shaam Pickering looks good for Atlanta

. . . and Peter Nichols finds an athlete striving to live up to a famous family name

Pickering will give it his best shot for his dad

RON PICKERING died on February 13 1991. He sat on the stairs, took off his snow boots (he had just walked from the station) and died. His first sport was athletics; he was its fiercest critic, its strongest advocate and often its moral spine.

He never went to the Olympics as a competitor but he coached an Olympic champion, the long-jumper Lynn Davies, and attended 11 Games as a BBC commentator. "He was the brother I never had," David Coleman said at the memorial service.

Pickering married an Olympian in Jean Desforges, who won bronze in the sprint relay and finished fifth in the 80 metres hurdles in Helsinki in 1952. She was his girlfriend from

school and became his wife in 1964, soon after she won a long jump gold at the European Championships.

Yesterday Ron Pickering's son became an Olympian as well. Shaam Pickering was one of three British track and field athletes — David Strang and Tony Whiteman were the others — who chose to march in the opening ceremony. He flew in on Thursday night from Los Angeles, where he had been training. "He wanted to be at the opening ceremony for his dad's memory," said his mother.

Shaam Desforges Pickering was always a talented athlete; he inherited his father's substantial frame, no disadvantage for a budding shot putter, and in 1986 he represented Wales in the Commonwealth

Games, finishing eighth in the shot and ninth in the hammer and discus. But still athletics was something he toyed with.

Eighteen months ago, shortly after his 33rd birthday, he seized what was surely a last opportunity. He resigned from his marketing job and on the fourth anniversary of his father's death flew to Los Angeles and began training seriously.

Pickering developed his speed and strength (his weight went up to more than 300lb) and his spinning technique improved rapidly. In this year's Olympic trials he finished second and a day later was named in the British team, having already achieved the qualifying distance.

Two weeks later on his

mother's birthday, July 4, he wrote in her card: "I'm glad we've been able to make history together. They had become the first mother and son to be selected for British Olympic teams."

"He has spent a lot of money getting there," said his mother. "I just hope he never needs it in the future. But that's how a mother would think, isn't it? I told him I will be there in spirit and Dad will be looking down on him."

Jean often hears her husband's voice on the old commentaries, especially at this time of year. "I used to tell him when he made mistakes, I was his sounding-board," she said. "But he was good, you know. I listen to the broadcasts now and he was good."

The Ron Pickering Fund, set up with donations after his death, has helped 16 young athletes in the British team. Jean is proud of that inheritance but concerned for the sport they both loved.

"He would have made such a difference now. He would have protected the sport. Ron predicted it, you know. He said that if you hand over the sport to the agents and the marketing men you lose the ethics." She stopped there. There was still so much unfinished business. The fund takes a deal of managing and there were lectures she wanted to publish.

But this is Shaam's hour too. "If you speak to him," she said, "tell him to give me a ring." Mum was just a little worried.

Horses first to face stern test of heat and humidity

Eventing

Frank Keating

THE horses, one might say, are the guinea-pigs. The three-day event's opening dressage kicks off the equestrian programme tomorrow and with it will come the first evidence of how the four-footers are going to cope with Atlanta's oppressive and possibly dangerous heat and humidity.

Horses sweat at almost three times the rate of humans, with the corresponding likelihood of serious dehydration. Fears for Tuesday's cross-country stage were voiced yesterday by Patricia Forkan, vice-president of the US Humane Society. "To subject animals to a speed and endurance test under the rigours of this weather is unacceptable."

Hugh Thomas, the Englishman charged with overseeing the whole event as technical delegate to the International Equestrian Federation, said: "If it comes to it, we will [abandon]. We are not going to go blithely on if conditions get to a stage where we can't be confident about the horses."

He was supported by Dr Leo Jeffcott, the Cambridge vet: "If we feel the health and welfare of the horses could be prejudiced we will be advising the judges. But it looks unlikely that very dangerous temperatures will occur when the horses are on the course."

We shall see soon enough if such optimism is valid. But even in the sparkling bliss of a fresh English spring at Badminton or Burghley, this Olympic three-dayer would be difficult to call because, for the first time, there are separate competitors for teams and individuals. Indeed, only after the course inspection today will Britain's selectors decide which riders and horses go for which event.

They have a fair blend to choose from: such seasoned stalwarts as Ian Stark (three silvers from the Olympics of 1984 and 1988); Karen Dixon, who was at the Seoul Games; and Mary King, whose King William is the only horse with Olympic experience — in Barcelona's heat.

The British chief d'equipe Charlie Lane said yesterday that horses and riders had acclimatised well. "There was some concern when we arrived, but no problems. We are now happy an appropriate competition can be run and we cannot wait to get mounted."

Boxers Kelly and Magee emerge from the troubled Ardoyne with a success story to put the rest to shame

Holy Trinity has double vision from conflict in the ring

Boxing

Michael Walker

NORTHERN IRELAND has had little to sing about in recent days and, against such a background of civil unrest, diversions of any kind shrink in their importance. But when Damsen Kelly and Brian Magee step into the Olympic boxing ring in Atlanta in four days' time, a remarkable sporting institution in West Belfast will add a page to its impressive scrapbook.

The Holy Trinity Boxing Club in the Ardoyne is supplying both boxers, an achievement which the combined population of England, Scotland and Wales could not match. With a reduction in Olympic boxing numbers from 600 to 320, qualification has never been more difficult. Reaching the quarter-finals of the European championships was required for automatic selection, and whereas Kelly and Magee did this for Ireland, only David Burke of the Salisbury club in Liverpool managed it from the rest of Great Britain. The heavy-weight Fola Okesola from London has since been added to the British team but only because of a vacancy caused by a Danish withdrawal.

This unprecedented difficulty in qualifying for the Olympics is why Michael Hawkins, one of the Holy Trinity trainers, says: "Success is simply being there. Hawkins is well placed to judge. One of six boxing brothers, he has been with the Ardoyne club from its first day 25 years ago.

The phrase "25 years of this" is also synonymous with the Troubles. Although the Holy Trinity club has remained relatively untouched by the surrounding strife, its origins are inextricably linked with the time and the place since the first premises were donated by the British Army, not long arrived in Belfast.

"It was an old wooden hut," says Hawkins. "It was about 1971, at the beginning of the Troubles, and it was used half as a youth club and half for boxing. My mother and father were on the committee: we got a couple of functions together and got a bit of gear." By 1975 the club was firmly on its feet, even though, Hawkins recalls, it had "only one ring and I can remember snow coming in through half the roof."

The original building, though, went up in flames, "nothing sinister," Hawkins stresses — and a more permanent structure was quickly built. "With 90 per cent unemployment in the area there

was no problem getting bricklayers or plasterers," he says.

The Holy Trinity soon produced its first Irish senior amateur champion; his name was Gerry Hawkins, a light-flyweight and one of the brothers. He went on to box in the Moscow Olympics, where he lost to the eventual winner, and then won a silver medal in Los Angeles.

No further Holy Trinity Olympians emerged until Kelly and Magee, but several have won European, world and Commonwealth medals, including Jim Webb's 1984 gold in Victoria, and 24 Irish senior titles. "Every year we are producing champions, we've got the best club record in Ireland," says another Holy Trinity member, Harry. With Michael he is involved in the day-to-day training of the club's boxers although he has remained in Belfast whereas Michael, an Irish Olympic coach since 1988, is already in the United States.

The four-man Irish boxing team — with Francis Barrett and Cathal O'Grady from the Republic — have been in Fort Lauderdale acclimatising, and Michael Hawkins's presence means he can keep an eye on the middleweight Magee and flyweight Kelly in particular.

"Danien's dedication in training is fantastic," he says. "He's got skill, he will win, but he's a bad loser — terrible

— and he thinks too much. He trains too much as well. We sent him home from the qualifying training camp for a week because of over-training. He was just too fit and we have to get them to peak twice."

The 20-year-old Magee is "similar", according to Hawkins. "These two just stroll along, two of the quietest men you could meet in your life. The pressure doesn't seem to be on in the ring either, they just fight and move. Any fool can fight but these two are class boxers. If you turn your back on them they're down on the floor doing press-ups or sit-ups."

Kelly, 23, is probably the better medal prospect, and the reduced number of competitors means that only four wins are needed for a bronze. The Holy Trinity, though, is used to great feats. In the 1998 European Youth Championships Michael Blaney and Paddy Brown won gold medals on the same night. Now the Trinity is dreaming of doubles again.

But it is not deluded about the size of the task. There will be no easy touches in Atlanta. By way of illustration, of the 93 boxers from Eastern Europe, 36 represent the nine independent nations that once were part of the Soviet Union. In Barcelona there were only 12, one for each weight category.



Knowing the ropes . . . Magee, left, and Kelly training hard in West Belfast

THE OLYMPIC
British
Tour de France
Riis ready for
William Fotheringham

Handwritten Arabic text in a box: ٥٤٣١ من الامارات

OLYMPIC GAMES: Old faces and new take the plunge in Atlanta, pages 10 and 11
THE OPEN: just another ground-breaking day in the life of Jack Nicklaus, page 9

SportsGuardian

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP: AN IRISHMAN AND AN AMERICAN LEAD AS THE OLD BEAR WAITS TO POUNCE

McGinley's early ace sets the pace

David Davies at Royal Lytham sees an unheralded Dubliner get on Lehman's terms to take a share of the halfway lead

AN UNEXPECTED Irishman and the golfer who is arguably America's best jointly lead the Open after the second round at Royal Lytham St Annes yesterday.

Paul McGinley, a former Gaelic footballer from Dublin, equalled the course record with a six-under-par 65 for an eight-under total of 134, the same mark as Tom Lehman, who was round in 67.

Lehman is one of eight Americans in the top 20, including the 55-year-old Jack Nicklaus, the first of whose wins was in 1968 and the last in 1978. "I have always felt," said Nicklaus afterwards, "that when I play well, I can win." At seven under, he is only one shot shy of the leaders.

Lehman was an obvious danger from the start. He is eighth in the US Money List, having been 15th last year and fourth the year before that. Asked what the Open meant to him, Lehman, only twice a competitor, said: "It used to be good entertainment on TV. All those crazy bounces and pot bunkers and things. But now I'm qualified to play. I realise that if you're serious about being a great player you've got to come here."

McGinley played the round of his life, and it showed. He was beaming as he came off the last green, despite a missed par putt of no more than four feet, and was beaming still an hour later after all his media activities had been fulfilled. It was a reward for not getting too excited on the course where, he said, he "stayed in the present."

That must have been an enjoyable experience, containing, as it did, five birdies and an eagle in the form of a hole-in-one at the 9th. The ace was his sixth, his fourth as a professional, and he has won not so much as a bottle of champagne for any of them. "Doing

it in the Open," he said, "is prize enough." He had hit a seven-iron to the 154-yard hole, which, he said, "was drawing in nicely" when it pitched eight feet from the pin. Then the side-spin took the ball the rest of the way into the hole, to take him to the turn in 23.

McGinley failed to break 75 in the Scottish Open last week, finishing 19 over par, and then he had to drive down overnight to Lytham for a 7.25 start in the pre-qualifying rounds. But "something clicked" when he found himself on a practice ground free from Carnoustie's gales, and he rediscovered his timing. It turned out to be a Lytham

there, there he was. He'd reserved a practice place, had a bucket of balls ready and he really didn't need to be there at all. Nevertheless Torrance, who has been encouraging his charge to swing more aggressively, conducted the session and sent McGinley off full of confidence.

The Irishman had one moment of luck and another of high skill during his round. At the short 12th he hit a five-iron into a bunker with "my worst swing of the day" and then hit the pin with the recovery, for a par. Then, at the 17th, he hit a three-wood for safety off the tee, which left him with a flat-out four-iron that had to pitch par-

which was much like the first with four birdies and a bogey, and without striking highlights. There was a 20-footer at the 10th, a 25-footer at the 16th, but Faldo's true achievements were two-fold. The first was that this course is so hard and heavy that it demands that you play the chip-and-run shots to perfection, and this he mostly did. The other was that he had only to put foot on fairway to receive the most enormous ovation, and this took some dealing with.

"It was quite difficult," said Faldo. "They were egging me on, I was trying to do it, not quite doing it and getting aggressively frustrated. But there must have been 20,000 of them out there cheering for me and it's very nice, it's created a great atmosphere. That's what an Open is about, atmosphere and getting the adrenalin to flow. It's been quite moving at times."

If he had his choice of something for the weekend, six, what would it be? "You've got to have control of the short shots," said Faldo. "If you can play those tricky, fiddly ones from 100 yards in, with control, you'll keep giving yourself chances, and that's all you can ask."

Ernie Els would wish a wind for the weekend. "It would sort out those striking the ball well and those just putting well," said the South African, whose striking yesterday was impressive. He sailed the 7th, 583 yards, reaching the green with a drive and two-iron — two smashing blows — and holing from 20 feet. His 67 made him seven under, and Els said: "If you'd have given me that on Wednesday evening I'd have taken it."

He is aware that he has progressed to a position where he is automatically considered one of the favourites, but he also knows that he needs another major fairly quickly if that is to be sustained. "People probably want another superstar," he said, "but I'm a long way from that. You've got to win majors."

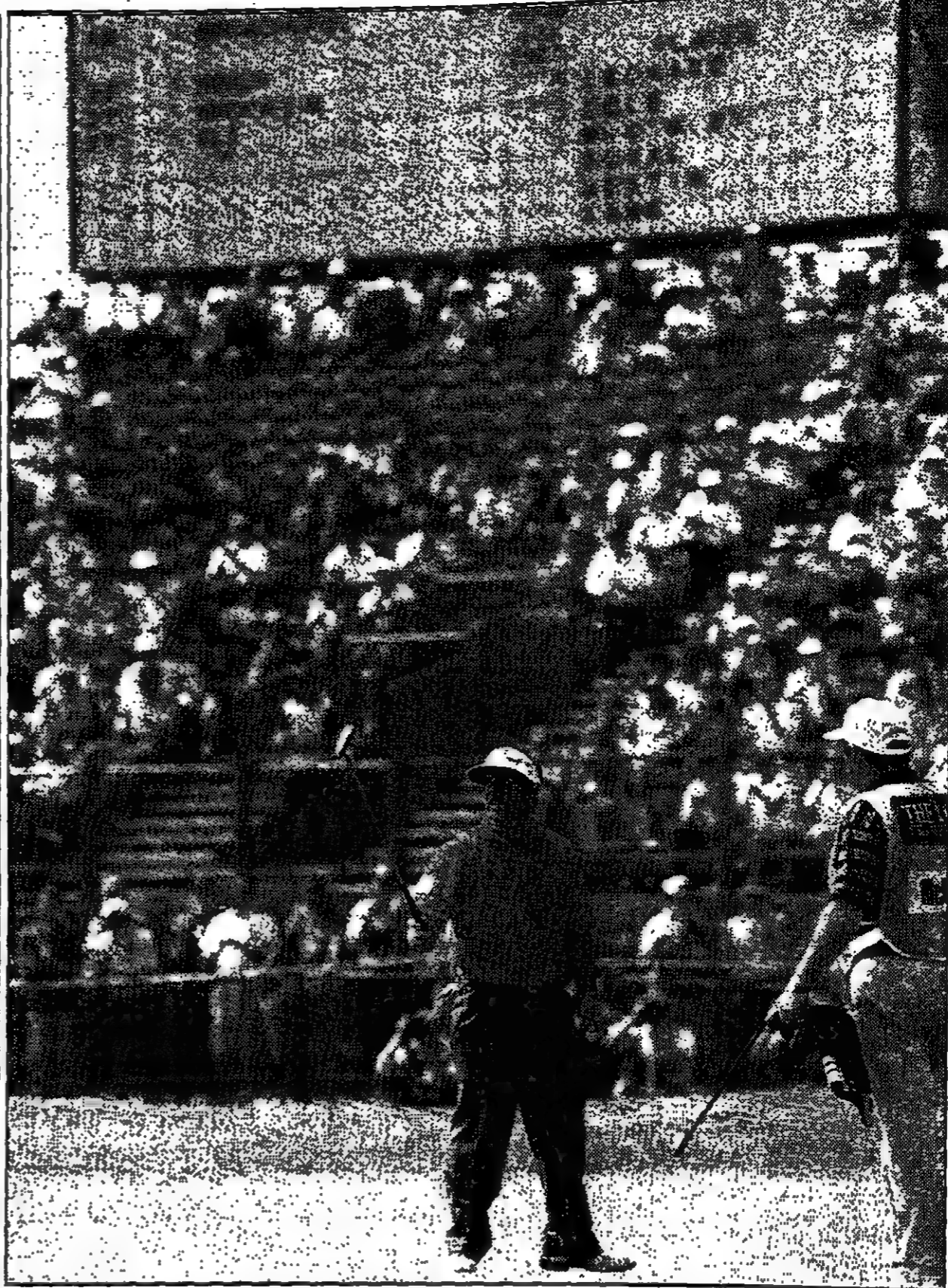
The ace was his sixth, and he has won not so much as a bottle of champagne for any of them

rhythm. He qualified comfortably, practised well and then had a promising 69 in the opening round.

But he had a 7.25 start yesterday morning and, as a 39-year-old, felt that he could not politely ask his coach, the veteran Bob Torrance, to supervise the early-morning practice routine. "When I got

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	206	3	10	384	4
2	437	4	11	542	5
3	457	4	12	198	3
4	306	4	13	342	4
5	312	3	14	445	4
6	480	5	15	463	4
7	583	5	16	357	4
8	418	4	17	467	4
9	164	3	18	414	4
Cut	5,330	35	In	5,862	36
Total	6,862	35	par	71	



Leader slip... Paul McGinley bogeyed the 18th but still equalled the course record with a 65 PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS



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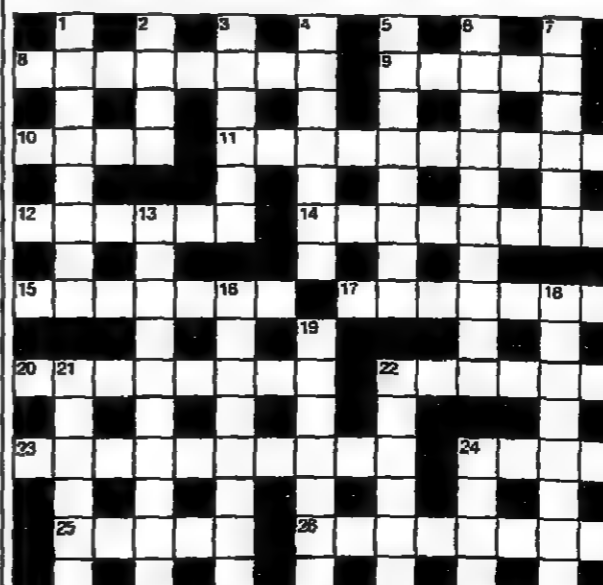
English has been a real predator of Russian culture, sweeping in on the back of the free market. One "new" Russian can now say to another: "poyedem v casino, na lunch, tam kharoshee security" (let us go to the bar for lunch, its got good security guards there). David Hearst

Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,710

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,710, P.O. Box 315, Mitchell, Surrey CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday July 29.

Name _____
Address _____

Tick here if you do not wish to receive further information from the Guardian Media Group or other companies screened by us



Set by Paul

Across

8 Pipes for Scotsman ten, or fiddle? (8)
9 Author in 2 (5)
10,25 15s' log cabin (8)
11 Rank symbol if read wrong at the core appears reversed (3-7)
12 Hound fish and alien (6)
14 The tournament players work in the coalfields (4-4)
15 Prohibits a girl (7)
17 15 10 25's call was like asking for trouble (7)
20 Dig in vile prison (6)
22 15's man (6)

Down

1 View of everything gold in the 2 (8)
2 see 24dn
3 Reportedly, stronghold is scrapped (5)
4 15 22ac? (7)
5 Greek character claims Creta (Greek) and the rest (2,5)
6 Titania's sweet face with air and sky is made (5,5)

7 Fruit topped fruit (5)
13 Make up tart and use bums with foundation (10)
16 Oliver running round circuits became ill again (8)
18 Increased anger led to trouble (8)
19 Where to 2 whirlybird in Adelphi (7)
21 2 on fire (5)
22 Beast let out beasts (6)
24, 25 15 has vehicle to catch (8)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,709

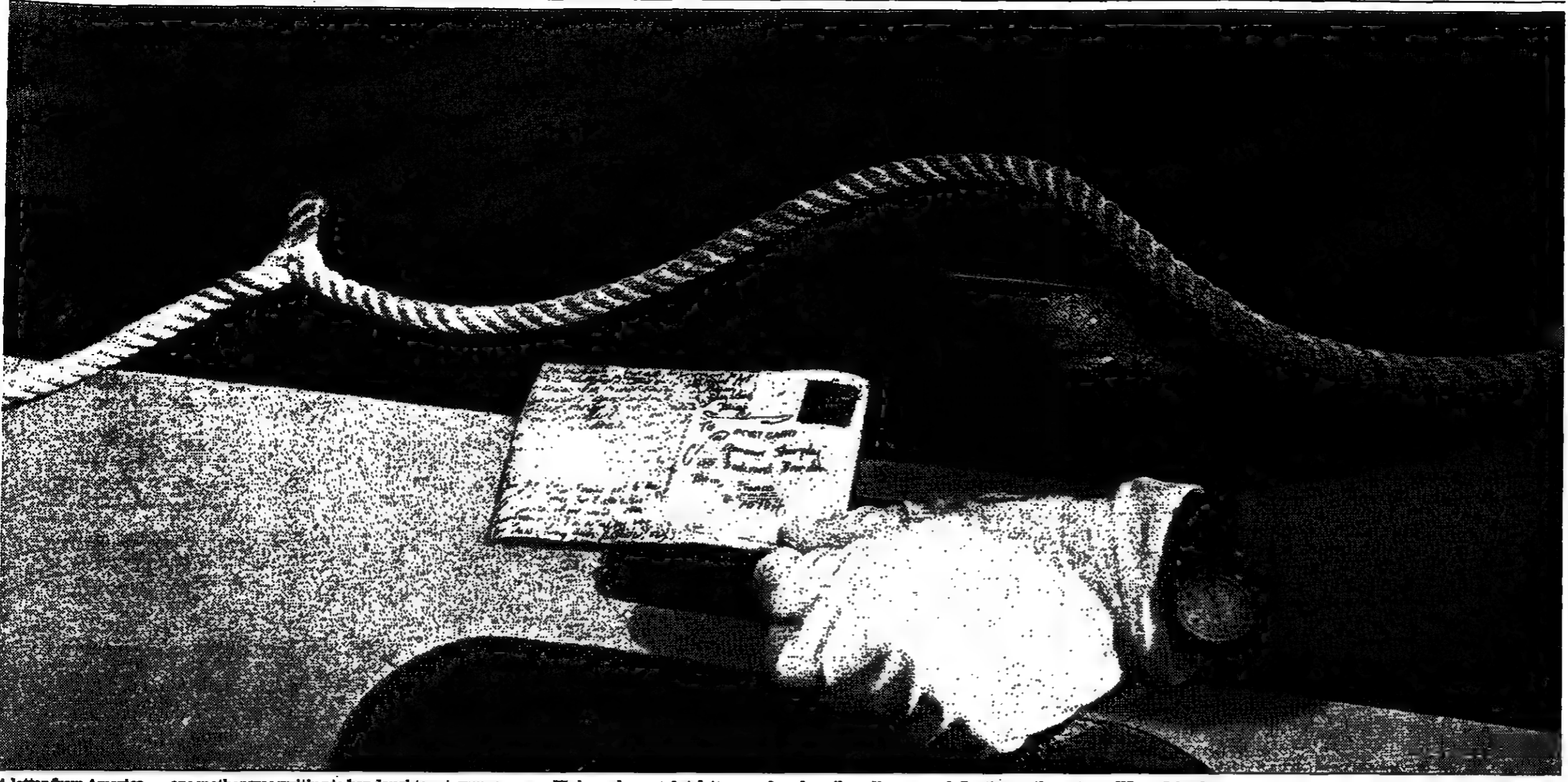
With the down, JO...
V...
p...
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Disneyland

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150

Saturday July 20
Sunday July 21
1996

The Guardian Outlook



A letter from America... one mother was writing to her daughter at summer camp. We know because her letter was found, eerily well-preserved, floating on the waters off Long Island

With the experts now shifting towards the bomb theory of why TWA Flight 800 went down, JONATHAN FREEDLAND examines the fireball that fuels America's fears

When trust is put to flight

CARTOONISTS have a hard time with tragedy. They're used to ridicule and satire, not collective bewilderment and grief. But yesterday the New York Post's Nick Anderson coped with the task. In the background he showed a plane careening across the night sky, leaving a trail of flames. In front, the Statue of Liberty held her face in her hands. It was a fitting image, and not just because it conveyed that unique American ability to regard each new disaster as a "loss of innocence". No matter that the country wept for 167 people on April 19, 1968 at Oklahoma City, or for 110 more last May when ValuJet Flight 592 plunged into the Florida Everglades. This loss stung like a fresh wound. The picture of Lady Liberty covering her eyes in disbelief conveyed a wider sense of accident or a bomb? The families need the answer so they can know whether to lament an act of God — or the work of man, an act of evil. Slowly investigators are inching toward the latter con-

clusion. Everywhere there are pleas for caution, from President Clinton down. "Let's wait and see the evidence," he said, reminding the media how badly they had erred in attributing the Oklahoma bomb to Islamic terror. Navy teams were yesterday diving 120 feet below the surface off Long Island to pick up the "pinging" of the black boxes, the flight recorders which automatically emit a noise when they hit water. The devices may contain vital clues — a bomb leaves a "signature sound", experts say — but few are confident the mystery of TWA Flight 800 will be resolved soon. Investigators recall that it took a month to conclude that a bomb and not a mechanical fault had downed Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in December 1988. The current inquiry is even trickier, because the evidence is not on the ground but in the ocean, and because the plane blew apart in mid-air. The closest parallel experts have is with the 1988 destruction of the Challenger space shuttle — which also shattered in the sky. The memory now haunting federal officials is that of US

Air Flight 437, the passenger jet which crashed near Pittsburgh in September 1994. The cause of that disaster is still a riddle, proof that some air disasters can never be solved. Tension between the politicians and the airline has already surfaced. New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani attacked TWA for giving panicked relatives the "run-around", making them wait 16 hours to find out whether their loved ones were on Flight 800. Callers to the TWA helpline were put on hold or cut off. One operator asked a caller to wait, telling them he would get someone else to deliver "the bad news". Political leaders and airline managers were bound to clash, because they now have directly divergent interests. TWA would never say it, but their accountants would prefer Wednesday's blast to be an act of terror than a fault in one of their aircraft. That way they are the victim, not the culprit. For President Clinton it's international terror makes him look powerless, and it's becoming an all too frequent occurrence in this election year. Just last month the pres-

ident was telling the relatives of 19 US soldiers that their sons and brothers died heroes when they were blasted out of their beds by a bomb outside their barracks near Dhahran in Saudi Arabia. Last November he had to say the same to the families of five other servicemen, killed by a fundamentalist's bomb in Riyadh. Clinton may wish it were otherwise but the first crumbs of evidence are suggesting murder is the only plausible explanation for Wednesday's slaughter of 230 innocents. The Boeing 747-100 began its journey around lunchtime at Athens' Hellikon airport, until mid-May one of the top airports on America's Most Doggy list — ranked alongside Lagos and Bogota as places that fail to meet security standards. It arrived at New York's John F Kennedy airport at about 9pm, where TWA officials insist it was triple checked. The airline did indeed observe correct safety procedure, delaying the flight because a passenger had checked a bag into the hold but had not boarded. They were about to remove the bag when the passenger turned up.

TWA's check showed something else too: a fault in the engine pressure ratio gauge, a key instrument which measures the power supply to the engine. Experts are divided over whether the removal of the instrument proves that any potential problem was solved or indicates some other, more sinister problem. The plane left the gate at 8.02pm. The attendants talked through the safety drill, pointing out the oxygen masks and holding up the lifejackets before take-off at 8.19 pm. It is terrible to imagine the next 29 minutes. There were 16 teenagers from the rural Pennsylvania town of Mountourville, all of them members of their high school French club, on the flight, along with two newly-wed Italian couples. A mother was writing to her daughter at summer camp; we know because her letter was found floating on the waters off Long Island. The last recorded conversation with TWA Flight 800 was a request from the cockpit for clearance to climb from 13,000 to 15,000 feet. The ascent began, reaching 13,700 feet. Then, at 8.45pm, the plane vanished from radar. Down on Long Island, residents saw what looked like an impromptu fireworks display. First a stripe of flame, like a flare they said, then a brief corkscrew plume and finally a vast, orange fireball. Within seconds the placid water off East Moriches was coated in 135 tons of jet fuel, a flaming slick that burned all night. Within that story are the clues which have led a range of aviation experts to suspect foul play. Few analysts believe that even a massive mechanical error could have triggered such a sudden, spectacular blast. They point to the

absence of any distress signals, and the fact that none of the bodies recovered so far was wearing a life-jacket — both signs that death came in an instant, not through a lingering technical problem. Theories have come fast, starting with revelations that Al-Hayat, a London-based Arabic newspaper received what read like a warning hours before the explosion. A faxed letter from the Movement for Islamic Change — the very group which claimed responsibility for the Riyadh killings — threatened something "that would surprise the Americans". The White House press secretary, Mike McCurry, holding firm to the administration's sceptical line, dismissed such speculation as "hyperventilation".

described by witnesses. Asked whether that was possible, Robert Francis, of the National Transportation Safety Board, said simply, "No". But those who cling to the accident theory have little to work with. The Boeing 747 is a famously safe plane — although it has had a problem with a mechanism that allows faulty engines to break away from the plane. Three cargo 747s have crashed that way, including the El Al jet which ploughed into an Amsterdam block of flats in 1992. But even that fault could not have caused the devastation seen on Wednesday, unless it somehow ruptured a fuel line in the process. Most experts agree, that's a lot of fuel. The focus now is on the destruction wrought by men, not machines. One can't blame the politicians if they wish it were different. For terrorism is an even tougher adversary now than it was in the 1970s, the era of skyjacking. Back then, the enemy were known organisations — the PLO, Black September, Abu Nidal — backed by rogue states, Iraq, Libya and Syria. Now it is a loose, amorphous network of Muslim radicals drawing harder-to-trace assistance from the likes of Sudan. Often, hardened by battle experience with the mujahidin in Afghanistan, these men see linked struggles for Muslim freedom in Bosnia, Chechnya and Kashmir. "Now

you don't have a group, you have an old boys' network where people keep in touch," says one counter-terrorism expert. "This is not something that can be penetrated, because they may just come together for one operation and disperse again." The case of Ramzi Yousef is a frightening proof of what political leaders in the US and the west are up against. No one is even sure where he came from, but he's believed to be the half-Pakistani, half-Palestinian "evil genius" who dreamed of causing "terror in the skies". He is now on trial in New York for plotting to destroy 11 US airliners in a single day over the Pacific, and of masterminding the 1983 attack on the World Trade Centre. Agents feared he was working on a method of blowing up planes using liquid explosive, smuggled on board in bottles of contact lens solution. "A really determined terrorist is very difficult to thwart," says one western diplomat, noting the bombers' ability to use computers to work globally. The possible remedies are unpalatable for Clinton. He cannot bow to fundamentalist demands and change US policy in the Middle East by pulling his troops out of Saudi Arabia and dumping Israel. Nor will the airlines allow him to ratchet up security at US airports. To do that would cost an estimated \$5 billion and lead to heavy delays and fewer flights. Profit margins wouldn't take that. So Clinton will hope the investigation can find some other cause, or at least take a long time — ideally past November 5, the day of the election. Additional reporting by Ian Black and Richard Norton-Taylor

TWA would prefer the blast to be an act of terror than a fault. For Clinton it is the opposite

Pentagon sources were similarly curt about reports that Flight 800 might have been knocked out by a missile. That would have explained the "mystery blob" that appeared on air traffic controllers' radar screens and the first "blare",

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14 THE LEADER PAGE

Shaming scandal of CJD

SUDDENLY, the rush of honesty at the Department of Health in March over the dangers of BSE — even when senior ministers within the Cabinet were urging silence — becomes more understandable. It looks like a combination of guilt, shame, and urge to compensate for earlier crimes. Yesterday's High Court ruling on Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), the human form of mad cow disease, has nothing to do with BSE. This action was about CJD's other main cause: human growth hormone. The eight families which brought the suit had all lost children through human growth hormone treatment. There are few more horrible deaths. Yet what the court action has exposed is negligence at the highest level. Almost unbelievably, officials within the department and staff at the Medical Research Council (MRC) failed to pass on warnings about the dangers of such treatment to the key committee of clinicians which was supervising the therapeutic programme. Although officials were warned of the dangers of pituitary-infected CJD passing into the treatment process, the clinicians were not. The court concluded that such negligence was "materially" responsible for children in the case developing CJD.

It is worth noting the way CJD behaves. The disease, which can take years to incubate, then develops rapidly. Victims suffer multiple problems, beginning with unsteadiness and then visibly declining through incontinence, paralysis, blindness, dementia and death, usually within a year of the first signs of the disease. By the end many victims are unable to speak, unable to swallow and have to be fed through tubes inserted in their stomachs. The distress caused to victims' families is not hard to imagine. The fear which such deaths have generated within families which have survived is similarly understandable.

About 2,000 children have been treated with human growth hormone. The children were suffering from stunted growth. The hormone was extracted from the pituitary glands of 900,000 corpses. It was extremely successful in increasing growth by up to one foot. What began as a clinical trial under the MRC had by 1977 become a therapeutic programme under the Department of Health. It was brought to an end in 1985 — after three deaths in the US from the use of the hormone — and since then, genetically engineered hormone has been used. Meanwhile, 16 children from the British programme have died and another three are terminally ill.

From the beginning, the Department of Health and the MRC denied liability. Mr Justice Morland made short shrift of such arguments yesterday. Quite so. The

judge was careful to note the dangers of hindsight, the need to remember the state of scientific knowledge at the time, and to shut out of his mind the suffering which the victims experienced. But he also noted that the first glimmering of an infectious agent emerged in the 1960s and 1970s. By 1977 the risks of using pituitary glands of people suffering from dementia had been established. The precise molecular size and weight of the CJD infectious agent has still not been determined. But the judge was in no doubt that all reasonable practicable steps should have been taken to minimise danger. This the Department of Health and the MRC failed to do.

The judge made another important point in his 84-page ruling: the advantages of such a complex scientific issue being resolved through an inquisitorial rather than adversarial procedure. Yet ministers consistently rejected petitions — and parliamentary pressure — for a public inquiry into the scandal. Australia showed the way. Its public inquiry showed scientists did believe CJD could be transmitted through pituitary hormones and disclosed the fact that British mortuary technicians, who were being paid 20p per gland, were sending glands of people who died of dementia for processing. The need now is to provide the bereaved — and the psychiatrically harmed survivors — with proper compensation. Technically, only one of yesterday's litigants may qualify, but this is no time for such a mean-minded legalistic approach. It has lasted too long already. Negligence needs proper and full compensation.

Rekindle the flame

THE OLYMPIC GAMES were supposed to have started with a race between Pelops and Oenomaus, who used to challenge his daughter's boyfriends and then put them to death. This year's Games which start today will, like all previous ones, inescapably reflect the environment in which they are taking place. This time the agenda for what used to be amateurism's supreme moment has been set by the commercial realities of television scheduling and the balance sheet of the Coca-Cola company. The parched streets of Atlanta have been cleansed of beggars and other Olympic distractions while the world's best athletes train in impossibly hot conditions protected by armed guards from evil forces outside, while expert teams test for drug abuse. This time the Olympics are best watched from a distance.

Yet it is the abiding joy of these games that behind the undoubtedly sleaze and the hype there really is an Olympic spirit within that elevates them to a much higher plane than other events including mere world championships. With the exception of a handful of sports like tennis and football, the Olympic Games are regarded by the participants as the highest achievement of human physical endeavour in which a gold medal is coveted even more than a mere world record. Only the Olympics could

have spawned a film like *Chariots of Fire*.

We even convince ourselves that it doesn't matter that Great Britain isn't much good at the Olympics. The largest number of gold medals we have won in a single year since 1928 was six in Melbourne in 1956. Even when we were the hosts in 1948 we only managed to scrape three golds. Which makes it all the more puzzling that we scooped 56 in London in 1908 — a phenomenon which may have had something to do with some of the obscure sports embraced by the Olympics including tug-of-war, polo and rugby where Australia (which took gold) was the only other competitor.

The only completely predictable thing about the Olympics is that the United States will win. Now that the former Soviet Union has shattered into smaller units, the supremacy of the US is not easy to challenge. It ought to be. It is time the high command at the Olympics published a separate league table adjusting the results for the size and wealth of each country as measured by national income per capita. This would demote America — which regularly punches below its weight — and would elevate poor countries like Kenya which do remarkably well with scant resources.

The country most in need of improvement is India. It has the second largest population in the world (865 million) yet didn't win a single medal in the last two Olympics, nor in the last two world championships. Maybe, after all, they are the standard bearers of the true Olympian spirit — to take part rather than to win.

MARTIN WOOLLACOTT on an identity crisis among the Transcaucasian capitals hoping to enter Europe despite demonstrating shaky proof of democratic reforms and their poor human rights records

Stuck in a great cultural divide

IN THE hot summer of 1912, a schoolteacher born in St Petersburg is addressing his mainly Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian pupils at the Imperial Russian Humanistic High School in Baku. Some scholars, he says, believe the lands to which the boys belong are Asian, while others, in view of Transcaucasia's cultural evolution, believe that this country should be considered part of Europe.

"It can therefore be said, my children, that it is partly your responsibility as to whether our town should belong to progressive Europe or to reactionary Asia."

The scene is from *All And Nino*, by Kurban Said, a curious and fantastical novel of inter-racial romance and hatred which some experts on Europe's international organisations being chosen to incorporate countries whose standards, in everything from the conduct of elections to the conduct of wars, fall below those hitherto upheld has not been lost on critics. One, after Russia's recent admission concluded that the Council of Europe had become a "Church of All Sinners."

The countries joining or hoping to join after the first group of relatively respectable central European and Baltic states were, some of them, fighting wars at odds with their own minorities, and only lightly grounded in democracy. Their prisons were appalling, their courts often arbitrary, their media often controlled. Were the chances of these things changing better if they were kept out until they had shown

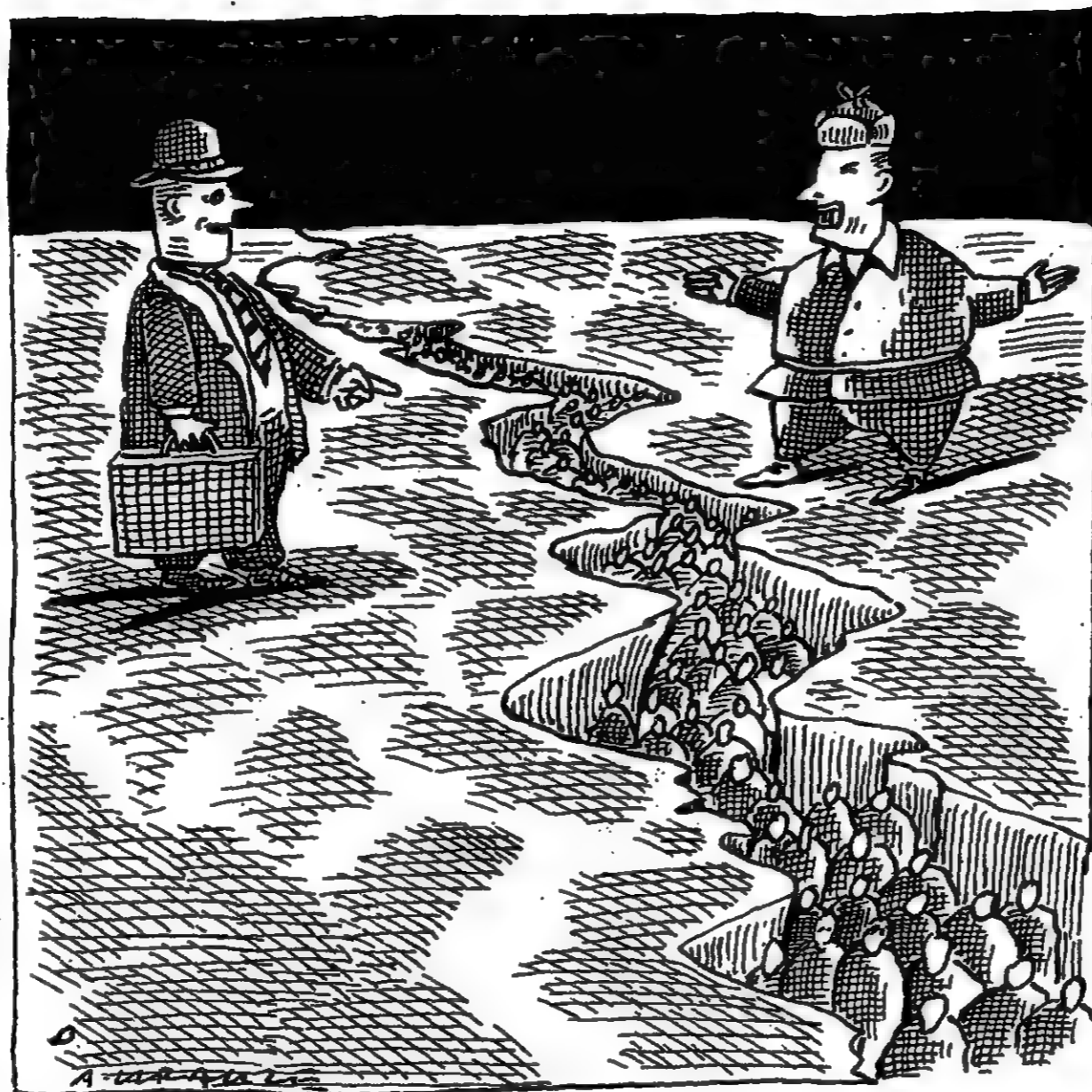
law, and social policy, Europe's conscience, some would say.

Lately, another role has been thrust upon it. Eastern Europe was desperate for some form of incorporation, yet the EU, the OECD, Nato, the WEU — the existing political, military, and economic systems — could not or would not take them in.

This week, Georgia and Azerbaijan handed over applications for full membership to a Council of Europe delegation visiting the Transcaucasian capitals. Armenia has already applied. So have Croatia, Belarus and Bosnia. The solitary European political entity which has no status with the Council of Europe is Serbia.

The irony of the most moral of Europe's international organisations being chosen to incorporate countries whose standards, in everything from the conduct of elections to the conduct of wars, fall below those hitherto upheld has not been lost on critics. One, after Russia's recent admission concluded that the Council of Europe had become a "Church of All Sinners."

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truly radical improvements, or were they better if they were brought in, so that their progress could be monitored and assisted more closely?

Daniel Tarschys, the Secretary-General of the Council, believes there was no real alternative to inclusion.

"There is a historic opportunity to promote democracy and human rights in Central and Eastern Europe," he says. "Closing off that opportunity by insisting on unrealistically high standards would be foolish."

Tarschys, a former Swedish Liberal MP and member of the Council of Europe parliamentary assembly, a professor of political science at Stockholm University and an academic expert on the Soviet Union, is a man for the times.

Certainly, there is no mistaking the hunger for Europe in the Transcaucasus. In Baku, you will be shown the ballet and the art gallery to prove that Azerbaijan, while giving Islam its place, is a civilised country in the European sense. In Armenia, you will be taken to the great churches

near Yerevan, some dating to the fourth century, to see fragments of Noah's Ark and of the spear that pierced Christ's side, to prove that Armenia was, in effect, Christian and European before Europe even existed. In Georgia they will tell you that the Western image of strife and banditry is a terrible misrepresentation. Armenia and Georgia see themselves as having been betrayed by Europe in the aftermath of the first world war and left in the lurch, again, after the first outbreaks of ethnic trouble and the consequent covert Russian interventions of the early nineties, when the West decided that the Caucasus was part of Russia's "backyard."

Yet they, and Azerbaijan, too, still crave admission to one of Europe's clubs. They view membership in the Council as a symbolic acceptance that they are seen as Europeans, not barbarians, and, perhaps unrealistically, as a way station toward association with the European Union. They need to be in, now that

Russia is a member, to assert an equality of status with their unpredictable neighbour and to get what protection they can from the Strasbourg mechanisms. And they need to be in, so as to compete with each other on a new stage. The ethnic conflicts that disrupted the southern Caucasus are all now quiescent but they are far from settled. The difficult truth is that the leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh are highly unlikely to give up their de facto independence for an autonomy offered by a government in Baku which they do not trust. Abkhazia, although weaker than Nagorno-Karabakh, has similar feelings about Tbilisi, although South Ossetia is a somewhat more hopeful case. Even if Russia in future cultivates a more responsible approach, rather than aiming to keep these quarrels in being for its own devious purposes, there is no guarantee of progress.

Whatever happens, the contradiction between the principles of self-determination and

territorial integrity, together with the allied issue of whether Russian Imperial power will emerge in new forms will henceforth be pivotal in the broader Europe. A "circle of secession", as President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia calls it, links Nagorno-Karabakh with Abkhazia and Chechnia, and, more distantly, with Northern Ireland, Corsica, and the Basque country. While some may strive to profit from a neighbour's problems, all have a common interest in the failure of rebellion. Similarly, a "circle of interest" links countries who fear Soviet restoration.

It is as possible that the mission to Transcaucasia was led by the Estonian foreign minister, whose country presently holds the presidency of the Council. Another circle still links Western Europe's democratic preoccupations with the aspirations of Eastern European countries. Politics, war, foreign policy, and moral ambition are being dizzily merged as Europe strives to become one place.

Talking through our bowler hats



Jeremy Hardy

AT THE moment, British people have an unprecedented interest in the Irish Question. Phone-ins and letters pages are full of suggestions like, "Let's make every person in Northern Ireland into an independent state; then we'd soon see the Men of Violence come to their senses," and, "Perhaps if there was a tax on sectarianism, the sectarianism would think twice."

To be fair to the great British public, the blame for the present situation is being directed mostly — and rightly — at the Unionists, the RUC and, by implication, Patrick Mayhew. It is the British government — the political wing of the British army — which must take responsibility for the current mess, and for the problem in its entirety.

But broadcast journalists this week seemed pre-occupied with trying to get Gerry Adams to condemn the IRA. It would be gratifying to hear Gerry Adams denounce the IRA in a BBC interview, only for the shock of the interviewer would get.

For a moment they'd think, "I've done it! This is the pinnacle of my career!" Then they'd grow panicky and mumble, "But they will still listen to you, won't they? I mean, they won't mind you denouncing them. You might still be able to swing another ceasefire, eh? Maybe you should withdraw that last remark."

Sensible interviewers know they won't get Gerry Adams to condemn the IRA, so the request for him to do so is just routine. For the presenters of the *Today* programme, I suspect it's all part of the jolly verbal run-around they indulge in to keep themselves alert at an incoherent hour.

I doubt they are as fond of Gerry Adams as they are of chaos like "Ken" Clarke. Nonetheless, they relish the challenge of trying to trip Adams up. It's rather like the "yes-no" game, played for extreme fun.

Some interviewers become incoherent by Adams's calm, so with words, usually a calm soul, go so berserk that I half-expected her to don a sash and demand to

march where he was sitting. Of course, it is impossible to remain entirely impassive in a situation where people are being killed. Atrocities will always provoke angry outbursts. But as the family of the Catholic taxi-driver murdered during the Drumcree stand-off remarked, angry outbursts from public figures can also provoke atrocities.

It might sound extreme to suggest that British broadcasters have contributed to violence. But the refusal to talk calmly and sensibly about political violence can only encourage it.

Treating with contempt those who advocate a non-military strategy weakens them within their movement. Refusing to look at the reasons for the problem, and giving the Irish the impression that the British have absolutely no understanding of Ireland, reinvigorates those who argue that a bomb sharpens the perception.

This is not to say that Trimble and Paisley go unchallenged. They certainly get a rougher time than the spokesmen for the loyalist paramilitaries, who've never been asked what they think of the "any Catholic will do" strategy. Of course, it would be a pointless question; they're holding their ceasefire at the time of writing and we're all very thankful.

But while the republican ceasefire held, Adams was no less harangued than he is now. The media can't decide whether they despise him because they think he controls the IRA or because they think he has no control over it at all. The attitude veers between, "This man is a terrorist!" and "This man isn't much of a terrorist so there's hardly any point talking to him."

The precise nature of the relationship between Sinn Féin and the IRA is a source of fascination to journalists only because they genuinely don't know what it is. The only thing the media seem to be certain of is that Martin McGuinness is the leader of the IRA.

McGuinness doesn't seem to bug interviewers nearly as much as Gerry Adams. He denies paramilitary involvement, they assume he's lying. They're used to talking to ministers who he abhors absolutely everything. But Adams confuses them, and they hate that.

Most people, however, don't feel the need to know more about Gerry Adams. They just want to see him involved in a solution that stops the killing. They could live with that.

Smallweed



THE ROW over "Kids" (Kenneth Clarke's unflattering description of his bright young strategic thinkers, rather than the cine-production featuring sex-obsessed New York yoo!) has not come from a

clear blue sky. As it emerged on Thursday that 37-year-old Treasury principal Helen Goodman, author of the think-the-unthinkable paper on the future (none) of the welfare state, was fuming at the Chancellor's dismissal of her "cranky" report, others were recalling rumblings 18 months back in the higher reaches of the civil service concerning the ill breeding of some of the new, self-made ministers.

One Home Office minister was alleged to be particularly abusive to his mandarins, and there were suggestions that, in parallel with the ethics code then being formulated and now in force, there ought to be a "manners" code under which civil servants would not be home to Mr Rude. Nothing came of it, although the Chancellor's brusquerie may bring the idea back to life.

AS PLENDID response to our competition for the three most useless books to grace the shelves of a privatised Bottomley Public Library. Who could fail to be gripped by *My Days Are Numbered: A Career In Accountancy*, *Said Days: A Life In Market Gardening*, or *Rolling The Loan: Helpful Hints For Aspiring Cricket Groundsmen* (thank you, Jack Critchlow of Torquay)?

Then there is *The Wit And Wisdom Of John Birt* (Oonagh Lahr of London N10), *Sash Snacks: Quick Party-Food Ideas For Orange Marches* (Tim Harrison of Kingston, Surrey) and, echoing part of the *Don Paterson* poem that started it all, *Water: A Culinary Guide* (John Hobson of Devises).

And the winner? It has to be John Bates of Glasgow, who enjoyed his two made-up suggestions (*The Heseltime Handbook* For Small

Businesses and, for the reference section, *The Toltec-Cornish Dictionary Of Scientific And Technical Terms*). But it was his *real* really-useless book that clinched it — *The Challenges Of The XXI Century: a collection of articles by Polish communist party big-wigs, place-men and time-servers who, as late as 1988, still imagined they would be pushing people around in 2000 AD*. "I would be very happy to donate this last to Mrs Bottomley's first model privatised library," he writes. And we are very happy to donate our prize fax to Mr Bates.

MEANWHILE, the libel courts are offering class-war watch-covers the best entertainment since the Old-England v New Brit square-up, featuring, respectively, Peregrine Worsthorne (*Sunday Telegraph*) and Andrew Neil (Tele-

Sunday Times and Sky) in January 1990. The former, you will recall, suggested persons like the latter, with their fondness for night-clubbing and so forth, ought really to find a line of work other than editing serious newspapers. New Brit tri-umphant, with £1,000 in damages. Six years later, the aristocratic Imran Khan faces cricket's very own Andrew Neil, the talented but chippy Ian Botham. Will the jury find for Khan? Were the case being heard in the United States, all to paraphrase Disraeli, would be race, but the British love a lord, whatever their ethnic background.

Cast your mind back to ITV's series *Department S*, featuring an Interpol unit with a black boss (Demetrius Alaba Peters). He had only to open his mouth for viewers to accept his boss-ship — he was simply far posher than any of the white char-

acters. *Mission Impossible* has been revived for the big screen, so is it not time to bring back the *S* men?

SPORT in Sussex is really going through the wars. While the county's former cricket captain defends himself in court, his main football team is all but homeless. Brighton sold the Goldstone ground, home for nearly a century, to save off the embarrassing attentions of the Insolvency Service, and they have to be out by May. Plans to share Fratton Park with Portsmouth have been shelved, and now the municipal authorities have said no to a scheme for a new stadium at Toads Hall Valley. Many years ago, in an attempt to persuade the World Man to use the postcode, post offices across the county displayed jolly posters in which a colour photo of Brighton in action bore a

slogan along the lines of "Seagulls over BN3 7DE" (the code for the ground). What now? "Seagulls over Returned Letter Branch"?

THERE is a discreet but sizeable fraternity of non-legal types (Smallweed included) for whom the main attraction of the law reports in this and other newspapers is the intriguing, deadpan headlines. You know the sort of thing: "Bequest to cat's home was valid". "No right of possession in deceased's brain". "Unruly son responsible for eviction notice". But we had to wait for the *Times* on Thursday for perhaps the best ever. The nonchalant heading to a report from the International Court in The Hague read: "Use of nuclear weapons to be compatible with treaties." The report beneath contained the news that, provided such an action conformed with the general

rules of war, "particularly those of the principles and rules of international and humanitarian law", then the threat of use or actual use of atomic weapons would be absolutely fine. Good, so that's settled then.

AS WITH D. Who, Smallweed, while remaining Smallweed, occasionally changes his human shape; now the time has come for him to grip the arm of his pretty assistant for! What to exclaim, "Doc-few's wrong!". In a few minutes, the juvenile, Tom Baker-ish manifestation with whom you have all put up so stolidly since April will transmogrify into the authoritative original, remnant of the late Jon Pertwee. Fade out the police box, fade in the BBC Radio-phonetic Workshop. Just time for the Master to docket: "Until next time — Doctor! Ha ha ha..."

Why Labour commit



Why Labour commit

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "سنة من الامتحان"

550 11/11/98

The vast caravan park at Trecco Bay, above, like the rest of Britain, is braced this weekend for the great holiday exodus. But things are not as they were. On her first caravan break, JACI STEPHEN reports from the Welsh seaside resort where the fish and chips and candy-floss of her childhood are being replaced by family discos and upmarket nosh

Sunny side up... The Jones's of Rhondda Valley (right) enjoy the life at Trecco Bay in Porthcawl, South Wales
PHOTOGRAPHS: JEFF MORRAN



Laugh? We very nearly did

There is great excitement in the Showdown Club, where six young women are lined up on stage, competing for the honour of being Miss Trecco Bay. Mack, being the host, is trying to cajole them, with his hand on her shoulder, producing anything that might resemble a personality. "Come on!" he shouts at Debbie from Chichester. "React!" Pulling her on to the floor, he begs her to feign ecstacy. "Pretend you've won. £10 million. How do you feel?" Debbie is having none of it though. She struggles free and tries to regain her composure before the 800-strong audience.

The host rubs his injured arm. Three days ago he was accidentally kicked during a "Tazman competition while checking the pulse of a plastic crocodile." "I'm really a racist," he says sadly.

The contest is one of the highlights of a holiday at Trecco Bay, Europe's largest single-owned caravan park. Two and a half thousand tents, most of them modern and electric, are lined up in rows along the coast.

At high season, the camp is completely full. Some of the 10 high holiday-makers come on short-term lets, others own their caravans, and then there are those who live in their mobile homes for all but two months of the year — from March to December, the maximum stay allowed for seasoners.

Last week, the first of the summer season's intake

arrived, and I was among them. The caravan I had been allocated was smart and electric, complete with microwave and television. Imagine an Aga in a greenhouse and you will have some idea of the temperature.

Outside, the family from hall was playing football. Every ten seconds the ball crashed against the side of my van sending everything rocking. Three vans away a child was screaming. It was my first, and I was beginning to suspect my last caravan holiday.

It is over 30 years since I last saw Trecco Bay. My mother in her hairdressing days worked in the site's salon and my brother and I spent each day in the Trecco Bears Club.

Through a child's eyes, it was paradise: slot machines, rock, sand, sea. But I returned to find anarchy brewing behind the scenes and a feeling of history being eroded; the old guard of holiday-makers and their memories being evicted by the new guard, in the name of progress.

In the Castaways family bar, Phillip Griffiths sits at a window table with a pint of lager. A redundant miner, divorced and estranged from his children ("my wife turned them against me"), he is holidaying with his father. They have just received notice on their gas caravan and cannot afford to replace it with an electric one, soon to be the standard accommodation.

Outside the window, a couple holding hands are kissing, playing a rotating table of plastic frogs. They look dubiously at the sign. "Every frog is a winner." A young boy runs to

the roundabout, chased by his mother. "Stephen, come year bloody warmin' yew, come year!"

The rattle of coins from next door's Pantis mingles with children's screams of delight. Phillip sits with his back to it all. He is an unhappy man. He's lost his job, his wife and his children, and now he's about to lose his home. "I'm a bit deaf," he says, "I couldn't hear what the judge was saying in court, so I went along with everything."

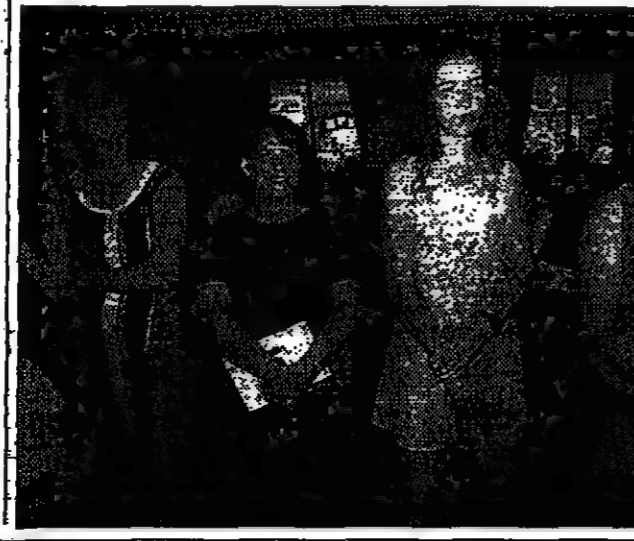
He finds the people at Trecco Bay friendly and warm, just like the miners he worked with down the pit. He was happier then, he said, than he has ever been in his life.

Against the backdrop of the Bingo hall and fruit machines, he cuts a lonely figure as he above ground, his whole self is

blinking with the light. "I was thinking about my sister today," he says. "Maria Diana. She died of a large heart. She had to be taken home from our holiday here when I was eight. A friend came down to tell us she had died; then my uncle came and took us home."

Among the throng of other holiday makers, the increased expense of what used to be a cheap break is a familiar grievance. Traditionally, Trecco Bay was the most popular holiday venue among miners in Wales. During "Miners' Fortnight", hundreds of miners and their families descended from the valleys on to what they called "Hiya Butt Bay", after the familiar Welsh greeting, "Hiya, but!"

Built among sand dunes, it had the air of any seaside resort: candy floss and toffee



Big smile please... reluctant entrants line up in the Miss Trecco Bay beauty contest (left) and the Evanses from the Cynon Valley enjoy the sun (right) on their rented holiday caravan

change is synonymous with loss of jobs.

The new emphasis is on families, says Simon Hughes, who has worked at the park for the past 15 years, currently as pool manager. "We've moved on from the days when husbands just used to come down and drink beer until they fall over."

"We also discourage groups of boys and girls because they tend to cause trouble and do damage. Everything now is geared towards the family — the teenagers' disco, the Trecco Bear Club, the family bar. We are changing our image."

Anthony and Daniel, both aged seven, made friends on holiday at Trecco Bay. Anthony likes the rides at Coney Beach; Daniel enjoys "drinking lager with Mum and Dad." Anthony, who has a girlfriend called Cathy back home, is not looking for more female company.

"We've got to grow first," he explains. "You have to be a hundred," adds Daniel. "Then you go for the legs. I kick 'em."

Daniel throws himself backwards off the bar stool. Anthony follows. Then they get up and do it again. And again. Daniel then comes up with the idea of going round collecting glasses and demanding money from customers.

Daniel's mother, Kathleen, and her second husband, David, bought the caravan three weeks ago and claim it is "the best thing we've ever done."

Not everyone is as contented in Trecco Bay. In one block, pan pipe music trails soulfully through the air. Malcolm Ax-

Why Labour must commit on currency



Martin Kettle

I'm still not sure where this present tale of our times came from, Labour denies it: at the highest level, which doesn't necessarily mean it wasn't there. Skilled conspiracy theorists think they can spot a piece of black propaganda from the Tory Eurosceptics, aimed at bouncing the Conservatives into a premature election against a phantom Labour gambit.

Blair's term is secondary to it. And the fact remains that Labour, although more pro-European than the Tories and more willing also to set out the conditions under which it might join up, is increasingly

circumspect about its handling of this immense issue. Booting the ball into the long grass of the next parliament would undoubtedly relieve Labour of a great decision. It may even, in time, prove to be the prudent course to take. But it would be wholly unjustifiable to do it now, especially on electorally defensive grounds. Sadly, Labour is too prone to such courses already, which is why last Sunday's story rang so true.

Yet to do it in this case would be the ultimate piece of irresponsibility. It would be doing the wrong thing for the wrong reason.

Nevertheless, it is not hard to see why Tony Blair must sometimes be tempted to postpone the decision. His party is divided about the single currency from the top to the bot-

tom, with at least half-a-dozen shadow ministers, including Robin Cook, whose hearts are not wholly in it or in it at all. The issue has also become a rallying point for the emerging new generation of Labour leftwingers, a distinct and more serious grouping than the older anti-marketisers, and not to be confused with them.

Blair would be only human if he preferred to defer the issue. He is wholly focused on winning the coming election, but he is also a two-term man. He aims to lead for a decade (though don't rule out those "Blair to quit at 50" stories), and he wants to win the second general election almost as badly as the first. Looked at from 1998, the politics of the first term may seem hard enough already, without inviting a battle royal with the tabloids, the Tories and the Labour left over Europe.

That, however, would be the coward's choice, and Blair has become persuaded, both by his advisers and by his experience, that he must always be a strong leader. In this way of looking at the world, postponement is for wimps. That is why I think he will not

duck the issue if he has to face it. For face it he must. What is more, he must face it much sooner than many appreciate. Sketch out a chart of the politics of the next decade for yourself, as I tried to do the other day.

It is a useful exercise, because it underlines that the Labour government must make its decision about the single currency within the next 15 months, and much sooner than that in practice.

Here are two propositions about the politics of the next six years. First, any British government which wants to go ahead with joining the single currency on the existing timetable in 1999 must commit itself to doing so next year, which means, in effect, preparing itself for that decision now.

Second, the next general election but one is likely to take place in 2001, which is also the year in which the second opportunity to join the single currency is most likely to present itself, and it is unlikely that Labour would choose to postpone such an issue at such a time.

The timetable dictates the truth of the first proposition. Stage three of European monetary union is due to come into effect under the Maastricht treaty at the start of 1999. The political decision to confirm it must be taken early in 1998, when Britain, as it happens, will hold the European presidency. But if Britain does not intend to invoke its own single currency option to imagine Labour escaping without committing itself publicly before the election, because it could always say it was entitled to have a chance to look at the books. But it is impossible to imagine that Blair and his inner core of prospective ministers could operate without a pre-election working assumption or that this would not need to be discussed in Cabinet within a very few weeks of the election.

A different timetable also imposes itself on the second proposition. If Labour misses the bus in 1998, for whatever reasons, it cannot be certain that the opportunity will then again come round at a politically favourable later date of its own choosing.

Assuming that the single currency does actually come into operation in 1999 as planned, but without Britain, it is possible that Britain might then be forced by currency market pressures to join within a short time. That would be politically embarrassing, and might badly affect Labour's performance in the inaugural Scottish and Welsh Assembly elections, as well as the next European elections, all of which are

likely to take place in mid-1999.

Blair will want to avoid such an embarrassment for all those reasons.

If, on the other hand, Britain survives the creation of the single currency but then decides to join from a position of strength rather than weakness, the opportunity to join is expected to come after two years. This, however, would entangle the single currency with the general election, something which a careful party leader like Blair might be anxious to avoid — unless the Conservatives were in such a disarray that there was positive advantage in treating the election as the verdict on the currency, thus obviating the need for a referendum.

But this is very contingent stuff. The truth is that Blair and the shadow cabinet need to make up their minds, and then to go for it. Perhaps they have done so already. Certainly Gordon Brown sounds these days like a Chancellor who wants in not out. With Blair one can never nowadays be sure. But they are going to have to commit themselves soon, and they are going to have to live with their choice for a very long time.

16 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A disease not a disgrace

Simon Garfield is right to say that the problem with HIV in this country is blame (The re-gaying of Aids, July 18). Thus the "de-gaying" of HIV was partly because well-meaning people thought that if gay men were associated with HIV, it wouldn't be taken seriously...

favour of targeting those who are most at risk, the danger of the current publicity is that it sends a message to the straight community that Aids really is a gay disease...

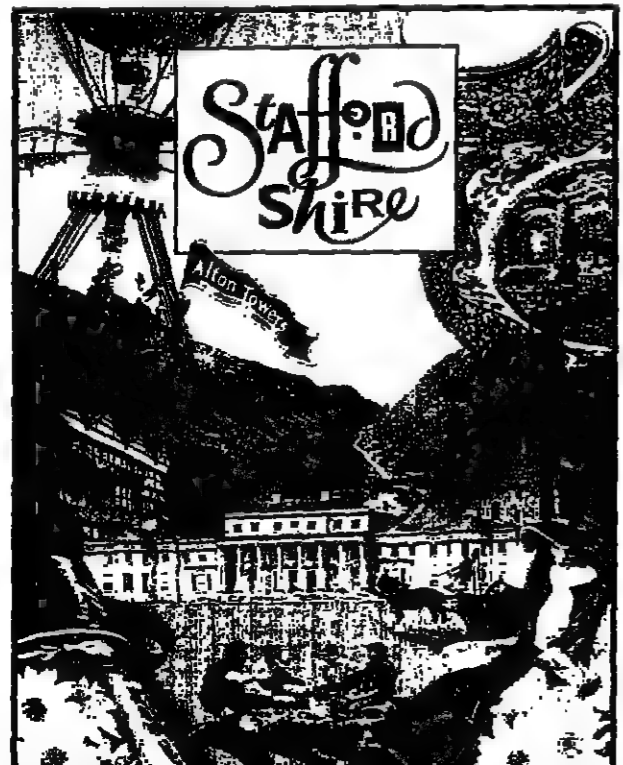
ALTHOUGH there are currently only 161 cases through low-risk sex, this represents 161 more cases than the Daily Mail or Andrew Neil would have us believe is possible...

POSITIVELY WOMEN is the only national HIV organisation providing services to women living with HIV. We take issue with much of Simon Garfield's article...

An obelisk out of Africa

AT LAST an issue of cultural looting from colonial times, outstanding for half a century, has received coverage in a British newspaper...

Installed in the Piazza di Porta Capena to commemorate the 15th anniversary of Mussolini's march on Rome...



SHORT BREAKS WITH LONG MEMORIES From the exhilaration of Alton Towers, to the beautiful Peak District and from the world famous 'Potteries' to delightful Statly Homes...

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Millennium Bash



Go on, read my mind

DR CHRIS WINTER, of British Telecommunications' Soul Catcher team, says that "speech and writing are such crude forms of communication"...

brainwave swaps are no more relevant to interpersonal communication than a kidney transplant, and far less beneficial...

OBJECTIONS from Ken Hesse and Steven Rose to the idea that we can store experiences on memory chips...

CHRIS Winter's views are immoral and unscientific. He sees nothing but good news in the prospect of reproducing and exchanging complete individual memories...

Flying in the face of facts

JAMES Wood mans an otherwise perceptive article (Fearfulness of flying, July 18) when he tries to replace a familiar old statistic beloved of airline PR people...

Cut off point for child abusers

THE SENTENCING of Howard Hughes for the rape and murder of Sophie Hook (Girl's killer jailed for life, July 19) will bring renewed and prolonged criticism for the registering of sex offenders at large in the community...

Less revolution than reformation of the welfare state

BOTH YOUR front page (Labour starts welfare revolution, July 18) and your Leader misrepresented Labour's position on welfare reform...

I SUGGEST that Chris Winter and colleagues all return forthwith to the extra-galactic laboratory where he was cloned...

PERHAPS Dr Winter would like to add to his list walking, kissing, loving and caring - all communication methods which reveal the extravagance of human life...

THE British Telecom scientists appear to be making two fundamental mistakes in supposing that they could record human memories on a micro-chip that could then be played back on a computer screen...

NOT for the first time Blair Naidas are mystified that they are being quoted by your

A Country Diary

LLANFROTHERN: Looking out across the brilliant green sward from the sunlit slopes near Llanfrothen the other day it was hard to imagine that 200 years ago ships could sail right up to the old stone bridge at Aberllynor...

Strain in the... Colin Parry personality his son Tim Warrington has his own interview by DINA RABIN... The yes... As MPs slip off to... with a big pay rise... bemoans the rise...

Handwritten note in Arabic script at the top of the page.

Strange kind of comfort found in the celebrity circus

Colin Parry became a media personality overnight when his son Tim was killed in the Warrington bomb. Now he has his own TV show. Interview by DINA RABINOVITCH

COLIN PARRY mourned his son in public. Remember Tim, the 12-year-old killed by the IRA in Warrington? He was buried with full Everton strip, including the shorts he'd been out to buy the day the bomb exploded in his local shopping centre. His grandfather supported Everton, his dad supported Everton, and so did Tim.

Colin wanted Tim to become a symbol for peace, so he went on a television news bulletin to plead that his death not be a waste. Colin and his wife Wendy went to Ireland to make a programme for Panorama. They wrote a book about Tim called An Ordinary Boy. Colin impressed he was dignified, a believer in forgiveness, a man people remember.

For Colin, the media exposure became interwoven with his grieving, and has become a part of his recovery. This, I suppose, is where one becomes uneasy about what business the spotlight has here.

"If you were to talk to any bereaved parent," says Colin, "the terror for them is that people close to them get worn out and fatigued by continuously talking about the child who's gone. Close family and friends carry the whole burden and they can't take it indefinitely, so there's a danger you'll lose them too, you'll drive them away through your grief being so sharp."

"So if you've suddenly got another vehicle, through which you can channel your grief and comments, which we found we had because it was a political killing, well that was an amazingly powerful outlet for us, especially for me."

Colin says the greatest therapy is the therapy of talking. That is the difference between madness and sanity following a child's death. For me the media provided that outlet, for a long, long time.

At the time, Wendy hadn't wanted any of the publicity. She would have battered down the hatches, shut the door on reporters. But Wendy let the media trample through her sunny, cared-for house, because she could see it was helping Colin.

And now the beast has come to stay. Colin Parry is to host his own talk-show, for Granada Television. He will be interviewing others who have been thrust, unwanted, into the public eye: Diana Lamplugh, mother of Suzy, the estate agent who disappeared; John Ward, whose daughter Julie was killed in Kenya; and survivors of the IRA's bomb in Manchester, among others.

Does he feel uncomfortable with the idea of having found a new fulfilment in life — for that is what he readily admits it is — as a result of his son's death? "Oh yeah, yeah, I'm wide open to that criticism."

how the barrage of media exposure became "addictive" for him. "For me," she says, "it's keeping busy which helps; for Colin it's talking about it, talking publicly."

And Colin says: "For about two years I had an awful lot of exposure to the media — as had Wendy, though Wendy will admit it didn't affect her in the same way — television, radio, press, and I got an awful lot out of that."

"We were suddenly exposed to a whole new world, of politics and big issues. It felt like there was a role emerging for me as an English father, who was not party political, who was not religious, suddenly cast in the middle of this ancient conflict. There were people prepared to listen to me saying, 'What would you do about it, and that was both flattering and felt very worthwhile.'"

When the media attention died down, after about two years, Colin felt uneasy. He went to see a contact he'd made through writing his book about Tim, the hot-shot London agent Mark Lucas, who handles the likes of Carol Thatcher and the former Beirut hostage John McCarthy.

"I said to Mark, 'Look I'm betwixt and between. I don't really know what I should do with the rest of my life. I'm often frustrated and unsettled.' We chatted, and I found his advice very good and objective, and then he introduced the idea of programme-making on television."

"We talked about types of programmes, and I said I was interested in the people who'd been burned, not literally, but burned by life. How their experience had left them deeply scarred but nonetheless still capable human beings, and indeed in some cases able to go out and take the message to others."

And Mark said, "Yes, I think that would make a decent television programme."

Last month Colin and Wendy went to a gathering of Compassionate Friends, the organisation for bereaved parents. It was their first time.

"We'd deliberately not joined because it was the sort of thing we never wanted to get involved with," says Wendy. "We actually knew a couple who'd lost all their friends, apart from friends who'd also suffered bereavement — parents who hadn't been through what they had come to seem irrelevant to them. We just felt we wanted to keep the friends we'd already got, and try as best we can to lead as normal lives as possible."

Though they still won't be joining Compassionate Friends, they both found the meeting helpful. "We met people there who could quite freely talk about their children who had died, who, like us, probably spend most of the rest of the year never talking about it — because your chances to do so are fewer and fewer as time goes by."

"I know even now when I mention Tim on the odd occasion," says Wendy, "I can immediately see the look on the other person's face, the thought, 'Oh, how do I deal with this. I wish she hadn't mentioned him.'"

Wendy is contained and speaks haltingly. Colin says he was always the more physically demonstrative with their children, the one who wanted the kids to climb into bed with them. But Wendy, these days, is easier on the children. When they appear, Colin is quick to hassle, ask anxious questions (about when they will come home, and how — an anxiety they clearly understand and tolerate), whereas Wendy just lets it go.

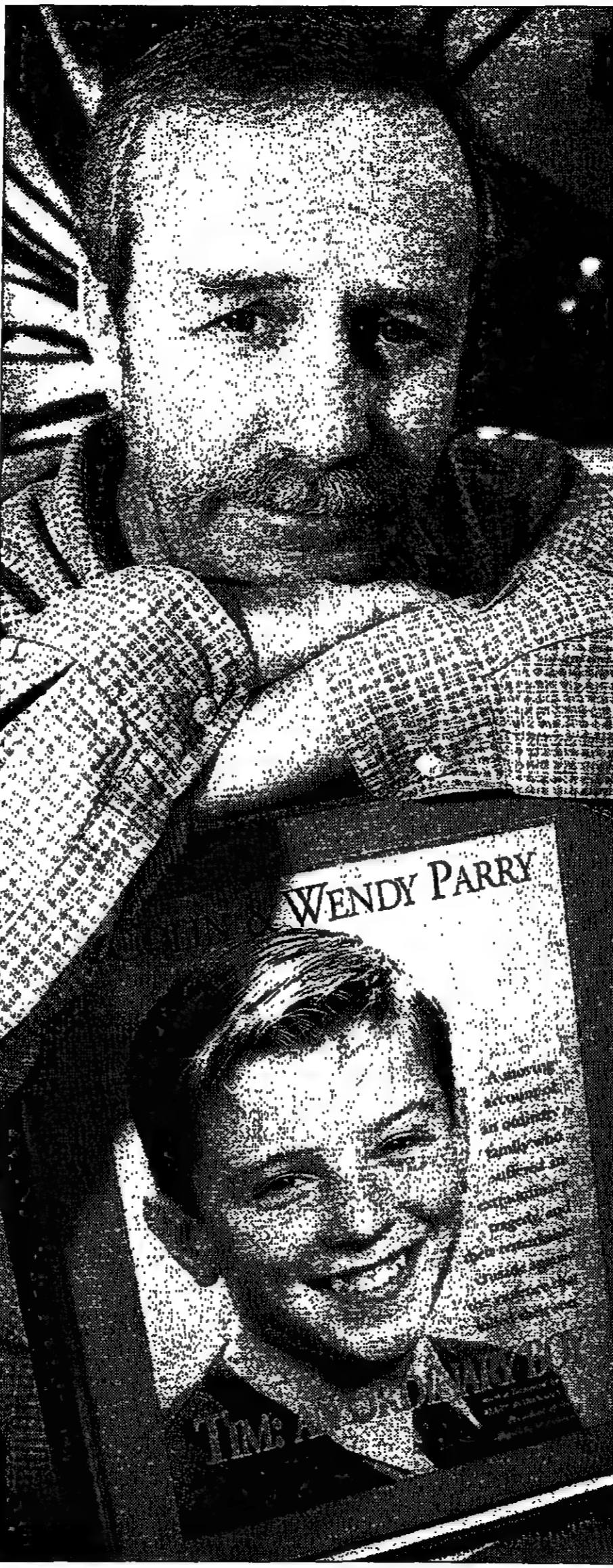
Sitting with them, in their house with walls lined with pictures of Tim, his clothes in a wardrobe, his bike rusting in the shed, you notice these parents' eyes. Both Wendy and Colin have the same frank blue eyes as each other, and when they exchange looks, you see two people agreeing to understand each other's needs, and so stop the pain of Tim's death from spreading ripples of destruction through what's left of the so-ordinary family they had: the safe suburban neighbourhood, his job as a personnel manager, hers as a school cook. The children.

There is the incredible longing to bring Tim back. The new-found belief in a life after death, "because we have to believe that we will hold him again". And for Colin, there is being in the public eye, which for him is another way of keeping Tim alive.

"Through me, in a sense," says Colin, "I feel Tim lives on as a very live reminder of the awful price we pay for no peace in Northern Ireland."

Wendy nods her understanding as Colin explains

The greatest therapy is talking. That is the difference between madness and sanity after a child's death. For me the media provided that outlet, for a long, long time'



Loss and gain... in the wake of his son's death, Colin Parry's role as a peacemaker gave his life the purpose he badly needed

Russia imports the language of politicheskaya korrektnost

DAVID HEARST on how Moscow is reeling from a verbal invasion

I DID not need a dictionary for my first brush with Russian authorities. I was trying to navigate Moscow's unfathomably obscure road system, where drivers have to perform complicated manoeuvres should they be so foolhardy as to want to turn left.

Cars with foreign number plates were a lucrative source of income for a small army of traffic police — wolves as the Russians call them — who stood by the roadside preying on drivers like medieval robber barons. I was observed hesitating and was pulled over.

The conversation was conducted in single words. "Straff" (fine) he said. This was not Russian but German. When I got out my roubles, the wolf shook his head: "Baksy" (bucks or dollars). "Bon voyage," he said waving me on my way, \$20 lighter.

As I later discovered, all these foreign words were in common Russian usage, the relics of waves of invasions of language dating back from Peter the Great. That great shipboard importer of Dutch naval vocabulary as well as German military terms. To this day, the private guard will raise the "schlagbaum" (barrier) on the gates of the foreign compound every time we drive out.

Catherine the Great brought in hundreds of Italian architects in the second half of the 18th century to adorn Russian buildings with "cupoli" (cupolas). French nobles arrived in their thousands after the 1789 revolution and until well into the 19th century it was "de rigueur" for every Russian of noble blood to be educated by a French governor.

The French language spread like weeds over a culturally barren Russia. In a good household, Russian was the language to be spoken only to the servants, while it became simply "movasetonn" (manvais ton or bad taste) to speak anything other than French to your social equals.

Even Alexander Pushkin, that great defender of the Russian language, wrote most of his letters in French.

As Pushkin's great friend Alexander Griboyedov observed, the language spoken by the Russian nobility was a frightful mixture of French and Lower Novgorod. Russia's revolutionaries were no better at preserving their language, casting its peasant notions aside for such great concepts as "revolution", "socialism" and "demokratizm".

So it should really come as little surprise to learn that when Boris Yeltsin once again opened Russia's doors and windows to western influence in 1991, some 10,000 English words flew in. The latest edition of the Concise Oxford Russian Dictionary contains such gems as "politicheskaya korrektnost" (political correctness) of which there is none, "golflist" (golfer) and "sketbord" (skateboard) of which there are some, and "raketer" of which there are many.

The bewildered linguists of the Institute of Russian Language are trying to stem the flood of English words. English has been a real predator of Russian culture, sweeping in on the back of the free market. One "new" Russian can now say to another "poyedem v kazino, na lunch, tam kharcheshe security" (let us go to the bar for lunch, its got good security guards there). You have "dilera" (dealers) who trade in "futurneyaya melka" (futures) and stash their ill-gotten gains in off-shore companies ("off-shore companies").

Now that the Russian welfare state is disappearing, it is good taste for the new Russian rich to dabble in charity, becoming "sponsori". The word "sponsor" has become so powerful in Russia that it has quickly spawned other meanings. "Who is the sponsor of this girl?" one friend asked at a party, meaning has she got a rich boyfriend.

The womenfolk of the new rich are heavily into "shapling" of the Jane Fonda variety, while their men occupy themselves with "bodyblding". The new Russian family will buy "tosteri" (toasters), "mekseri" (mixers) and "amplifieri" (amplifiers) and load them all into the "vnedromnik" (literally off-road Jeep).

And so on. Ad nauseum. Pushkin at least was literate in making his excuses. He tried to describe how his dandy hero Eugene Onegin was dressed but gave up saying: "But pantaloni, frak and gilet, all these words don't exist in Russian."

As they chew their "riggiz speerment, double djuce end doblemint", today's new Russian high-lifers are somewhat less eloquent in their abandonment of their native culture. As Yelena Bonner, the wife of Andrei Sakharov and an eternal dissident, once said: "Democracy? It's more like democracy (skitocracy?)"

The yes-men and fops shall inherit the earth

As MPs slip off to their Umbrian villas for the summer — with a big pay rise under their belts — SIMON HOGGAR bemoans the rise and rise of the Commons crawlers

ONE can imagine the scene. It is the year 2015, and the prime minister, Ms Matreen Mowlam, is appearing in a party political broadcast, shown simultaneously on all 144 channels thanks to the tough conditions Tony Blair demanded when he awarded 98 of them to Anna Murdoch.

"You know," she says, "we're aware a lot of you say that after 18 years of Labour the moment it's time to give government a rest. We're British, and we think it's only fair to let everyone have a chance."

"We in the Labour Party can understand that. But before you decide, I ask you to spend a few moments thinking about a time not so long ago. Most of you who will vote for the first time on Thursday are too young to remember The Summer of Discontent."

"It was a dark time for our country. Crying children were asked their parents why there were no birthday cards. The reason was that the postmen were all on strike."

"Our capital city, people could not get to work because

the Tube was on strikes. What image of Britain did foreign visitors take home? Of a country without public transport because it had been run down by the Conservative government."

"In Yorkshire, privatised utility bosses told their customers to stop bathing — because they refused to cut shareholders' pay-outs in order to invest in better supplies."

"The Tories tell you that they have changed. Under their new leader Stephen Dorrell they claim to be the caring, sharing party. Oh no, they say, they won't reverse the achievements brought about by 18 years of Labour rule. But don't be fooled. The old Tories are waiting in the wings with their policies of privatisation, of big money for the fat cats and nothing for ordinary people on ordinary incomes."

"We can't afford to take that risk. Don't let the Tories ruin our future."

No doubt some fantasy along those lines will flip through the heads of Labour MPs as they

hoping this is the last time they will not need to leave their phone number with the ministerial switchboard.

But the election is now promised for spring. However low Mr Major's majority falls, and however unhappy he makes Ulster MPs, the minority parties will always secretly favour a struggling government permanently within inches of defeat to a new administration with a healthy majority. Blackmail is an ugly word, but there it is. That gives

Labour members eight or nine months to ponder a greater problem. The pay rise they voted themselves last week was, some of us think, perfectly fair. They had fallen behind inflation, yet inflation is a poor guide since the national standard of living has risen considerably over the past 17 years, even if less than other European countries and much less than the Far East.

(Ministers privately concede that the reason the Koreans are investing so heavily here is only partly to do with "enterprise centre of Europe", more about a docile workforce which is paid less than its equivalent in Korea.)

The argument that some MPs are venal, lazy and not worth paying at all is unfair too. If you, with great difficulty, got a job you'd always wanted, how would you feel if the new boss told you that because some of your colleagues were incompetent and slothful, your pay would be half the going rate?

Still, there is no doubt that the rise went down very badly with the public — not least because of the new freezes on public sector pay. MPs have claimed for ages now that it's vital they should get a proper salary to help them remain independent.

Yet Parliament has never been less independent. The decline of the amateur MP, who would willingly kick a whip who dared tell him what to do, has been paralleled by the rise of the party apparatchik.

There to sound obsessed by Dr Michael Fabricant, but his promotion to PPS is a symbol of what the modern executive wants in its legislature: constant, cringing subservience, not altogether unlike the obsequiousness demanded by the old Soviet leadership.

Mr Major has been a worse offender even than Thatcher. There have been promotions for Cyles Brandreth, Cheryl Gillan, Angela Browning, Simon Burns, James Clappison — the list is a long but clearly not a proud one.

Labour frontbenchers claim that this culture of sycophancy will change under Tony Blair. Prime Minister's Question Time will become a genuine exchange of information and backbenchers on both sides will be encouraged to ask real, probing questions.

Maybe. Somehow I suspect that the Tories will blame all the ills of the earth on the Labour government, and Labour MPs will reply in kind. But if Mr Blair really was able to live with an open, independent party, then MPs would have gone some way to earning their new salary.



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HUGO DAVENPORT reveals why 73-year-old marvel Stan Lee and his string of comic-book superheroes are back in fashion



Spiderman and Stan Lee... 'I never knew what people wanted — to this day I don't know what people want,' says Lee

Spiderman meets his maker

IN THE words of the song, you don't need another hero — or not while Stan Lee's around. At 73, the man better known as Stan Lee, chairman of Marvel Comics, creator of the Fantastic Four, The Incredible Hulk, The Mighty Thor, Spiderman, Iron Man, The Avengers, The X-Men, is still going strong. And so are his comic book characters.

These Marvel diehards are joined by a new team, the Garveys, transplanted from First Century Scotland to contemporary New York. Live action movies are also in prospect: a Spiderman feature in collaboration with Terminator director James Cameron, there are plans for The Fantastic Four and The X-Men.

At heart, he remains a story man. "This is a movie like Twister. The plot was almost incidental. It's the same with some of today's comic books — some don't have much story; it's all just pictures. I can't help but feel that sooner or later they'll get back to concentrating on the story. Anything that isn't based on a solid foundation doesn't last."

By the sixties, The Mighty Thor was lecturing hippies on the futility of dropping out. Lee never had much time for the counterculture, and certainly not for drugs, although he remains proud of the tolerance displayed by the multi-racial platoon of Sgt Fury and His Howling Commandos.

The Brooklyn-born writer began working more than half a century ago for the company that was to become Marvel Comics. It was in the year before the US entered the second world war. He won his writer's spurs on Captain America by 1942, he had become editor. He was just 18, a live-wire who perched on flimsy cabinets playing the ocarina during breaks.

Since that epoch, he has filled the roles of art director, editor-in-chief and publisher, moving to the West Coast in 1961 to supervise an animation studio which expanded eight years later into a full-blown Marvel Film division.

For the first 20 years or so, I was just doing average work which my publisher wanted because he felt that comic books were for young children. He didn't want me to dwell too much on characterisation, on dialogue, or on continuing stories, because he felt that youngsters couldn't remember from month to month where we had left off.

Later I wondered whether comics couldn't bring in an older audience. That's when I started doing the Fantastic Four and, luckily, it seemed to work. In the early years most of the letters we received were in crayon or pencil, then they were typed, later they would have return addresses from colleges or universities.

In the sixties, Lee was credited with the introduction of the typical Marvel "zawed hero", but this was not a conscious aim. It was more a question of taking a single fantasy element — a superpower — and trying to make every other aspect of a character's existence as realistic as possible. Thus Peter Parker, alias Spiderman, was afflicted with

Reviews: the great video link-ups

LECTURE

Dalai Lama
Megatropolis, London

MEGATROPOLIS claims to be a lifestyle rather than just a club. While it remains best known for pioneering Goa Trance — essentially techno — its Thursday night residency offers face painting, palm readings, shikatsu massages and information on the latest road protests alongside the usual dance floor mayhem.

out. Megatropolis had done its best to maintain a meditative atmosphere with cushions covering the dance floor, incense burning, ambient music playing and information on the Tibetan situation available. Later in the evening the same venue would pulse to hard, electronic rhythm while revellers imbibed a variety of contemporary chemicals. Yet an air of tranquillity covered the afternoon's event.

OPERA

La Traviata
Covent Garden piazza

HALF AN HOUR before the live relay of La Traviata, Terry Edwards, director of the Royal Opera Chorus, and four opulently costumed chorists, led a sing-along. After three: 'Ah, si go / diam-o go...'

assist the authorities, crash-barriers hemmed the fans back from the celluloid sopranos. A wise precaution: there's nothing more likely to turn peaceable penitents to violence than a sensitive rendition of Dite alla giovine.

essential classics from sony classical MEGASTORES build a classical collection with virgin

File under x for extremely silly

Television

Stuart Jeffries

TOMORROW'S World has always been good, but we can make it better. We have the technology. Or at least we have a nip TV access at a loose end between series. We can graft her on to the show. A nip here, a tuck there. You know, doctor — it might just work.

tion has warned us against meddling with nature, the signs are that we are going to do it anyway — and sooner than you think," said Anderson by way of a supposedly biting conclusion to this instalment, entitled The Brave New Body.

tion to grooming. The camera moved around Anderson and she swivelled in time, her eyes always on the viewer, like a mobile Lord Kitchener. It was as uncannily as anything in The X Files: they had beamed Dana Scully on board without any noticeable change to her molecular structure, or deconstruction. Her cheeks were as sucked in, her stare as high-school serious as if she was pouring scorn on one of Mulder's looney-tune delusions. Even her script was as potty as to have been written by Chris Carter.

advanced prosthetics is the risk of infection. But that could be overcome by the invention of genetic engineering. If you can have eyes wear they don't need them, surely we can grow limbs in the most unexpected places.

Radio

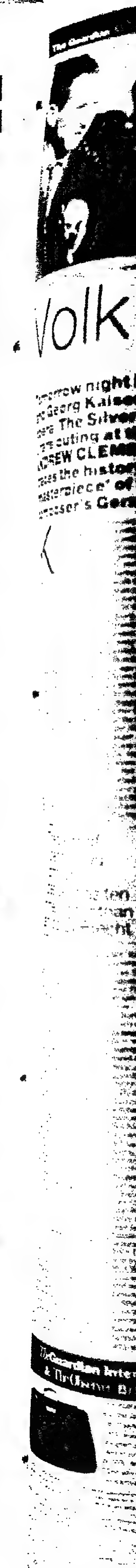
Anne Karpf

AN ANTHROPOLOGIST visiting Britain would have no difficulty categorising the different genus of families: there'd be the middle class, the working class, and one in a class of its own — the families in Radio 4 sitcoms.

commendably showing a family where the disability isn't the main character. Amy herself scarcely figured in this opener (nor did her condition seem to impinge on their lives) — more central was her older sister Kate's attempt to save the ageing local Lollipop man from redundancy.

viously for the Post Office, quips "a man of letters, you might say"). Or perhaps it's because they inhabit a Radio 4 sitcom, where the world remains an irredeemably cosy (and oh so slow) place.

the limited range of options (and argot) available to young women, and in a triumphant finale has them literally muddying the divide between "good" and "bad" girls as they smear a church with faeces.



150



Weill hodies... Mahagony Songspiel, Baden-Baden, July 1927; Brecht, Lenya and Weill in 1928 during rehearsals for The Threepenny Opera; Weill with car, Salzburg 1934 (PHOTOGRAPH REMOVED BELOW, THE EARLIEST COMPOSER, 1930 (PHOTOGRAPH: BUSE BYO)

Volk opera the Nazis hated

Tomorrow night Kurt Weill and Georg Kaiser's 'folk opera' The Silver Lake gets a rare outing at the Proms. ANDREW CLEMENTS traces the history of this 'masterpiece' of the composer's German period

KURT WEILL left Germany, decisively and finally, on March 21 1933. Hitler had been appointed Chancellor seven weeks earlier, signalling the end of the Weimar republic. Although Weill at first was sceptical that the Nazi regime could survive — "What is going on here is so sickening I cannot imagine it lasting more than a couple of months," he wrote in a letter a few days later — it rapidly became clear that it would, and that his position as a Jewish composer was going to become increasingly untenable.

stolen texts is still fresh in our memories... It hardly seems possible today that this kind of nonsense, this monstrous spawn of snooty nihilism was at one time actually performed on German stages with the participation of German musicians, singers, and actors.

The director of the first Leipzig production described it as ten times tougher than any play by Brecht

quick to put down roots in the New World, adapting his musical style to the world of Broadway in a succession of more or less successful shows right up until his death in 1950. The way his earlier music had been proscribed by the Nazis, held up to ridicule and vilification as a prime example of the dangers of Jewish cultural bolshevism and taken as a symbol of all that had been wrong with the Weimar Republic which had spawned it, must have hastened his desire to assimilate himself as completely as possible into the culture that had adopted him.

ser. Kaiser had been the librettist for Weill's first two operas, the one-acters *The Frogs* and *The Threepenny Opera*, composed in 1926, and *The Year has its Photograph Taken*, written a year later.



librettist, and for ideas for a stage work with which he could follow the disappointment of *Bürgschaft*, which despite its acclaim from the liberal wing of the German press, had been condemned by the right, and subsequently had had several promises of productions in provincial opera houses withdrawn.

hybrid between an opera and a straight piece of spoken theatre — might be the outcome.

Weill's German period". Its subsequent neglect — the Proms performance on Sunday will be the first in Britain since 1967, when it was staged at the Camden Festival, and only the third ever — is at first sight hard to explain.

middle of the 19th century under a despotic and reactionary regime. Yet to outwit the censor Kaiser and Weill were forced to cloak their critique in the trappings of a fairy tale.

tween the two men but Olm has been tricked into signing the castle over to Von Luber, and he and Severin are evicted; in despair they go to drown themselves in the Silver Lake, but although it is no longer winter the lake is still frozen; Fenimore tells them that the lake will support anyone who dares to cross it and the two men set off together

over the lake towards a new life on its farthest shore. It is a strange tale, with its mixture of social realism and naive, sentimental optimism. Olm and Severin's relationship is hard to tease out; so too is the strangely unreal character of Fenimore, who appears like a *dux ex machina* in the final scene to send the two men towards their destiny.

There will be a concert performance of *The Silver Lake* at the Proms tomorrow (7.30 pm), sung in German and conducted by Markus Stenz and broadcast on Radio 3. A documentary by Patrick O'Connor about Weill's music will be broadcast on Radio 3 this afternoon at 6.15. The translation from *Die Juden in Deutschland* is taken from Kurt Weill: *An Illustrated Life* by Jürgen Schebera, published earlier this year by Yale University Press

Guardian International & The Observer Briefcase. This multi-purpose bag, subtly branded with the Guardian International and the Observer logo, is made with a black heavy duty poly/canvas and is designed to hold everything you would carry in your attaché case. Expanding by 60%, features include a strong zip fitted with many inner pockets and compartments.

'They knew they were meeting for the last time'. The director of the Leipzig production of *Der Silbersee*, Detlef Sierck, recalls that he had been "advised" not to open the play, but rather "to fall ill and postpone the opening for a couple of weeks, and then everything could be dropped".

The Tragedy of King Richard III. RSC ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY. ALIUD DOMINGO. David Troughton gives a remarkably compelling and poignant performance.

Alexander Ogston

Scientist's key note

THE FAME of biochemist Alexander Ogston...

It established Sandy Ogston as a great theorist...

Now often called the Krebs Cycle...



Ogston... detail from the portrait by John Ward

which, involving many chemical steps...

The paper revolutionised biochemical thinking...

and, more recently, as understanding of the complexity of living biochemistry...

While Ogston's 1948 paper on citrate... and probably a proposal by Krebs...

Although very proud of the medal, Ogston... a tall, gentle and, by this time, rather stooping man...

Ogston's postgraduate students recall that they, when faced with a problem...

Ogston was born in Bombay and, after being a King's Scholar at Eton...

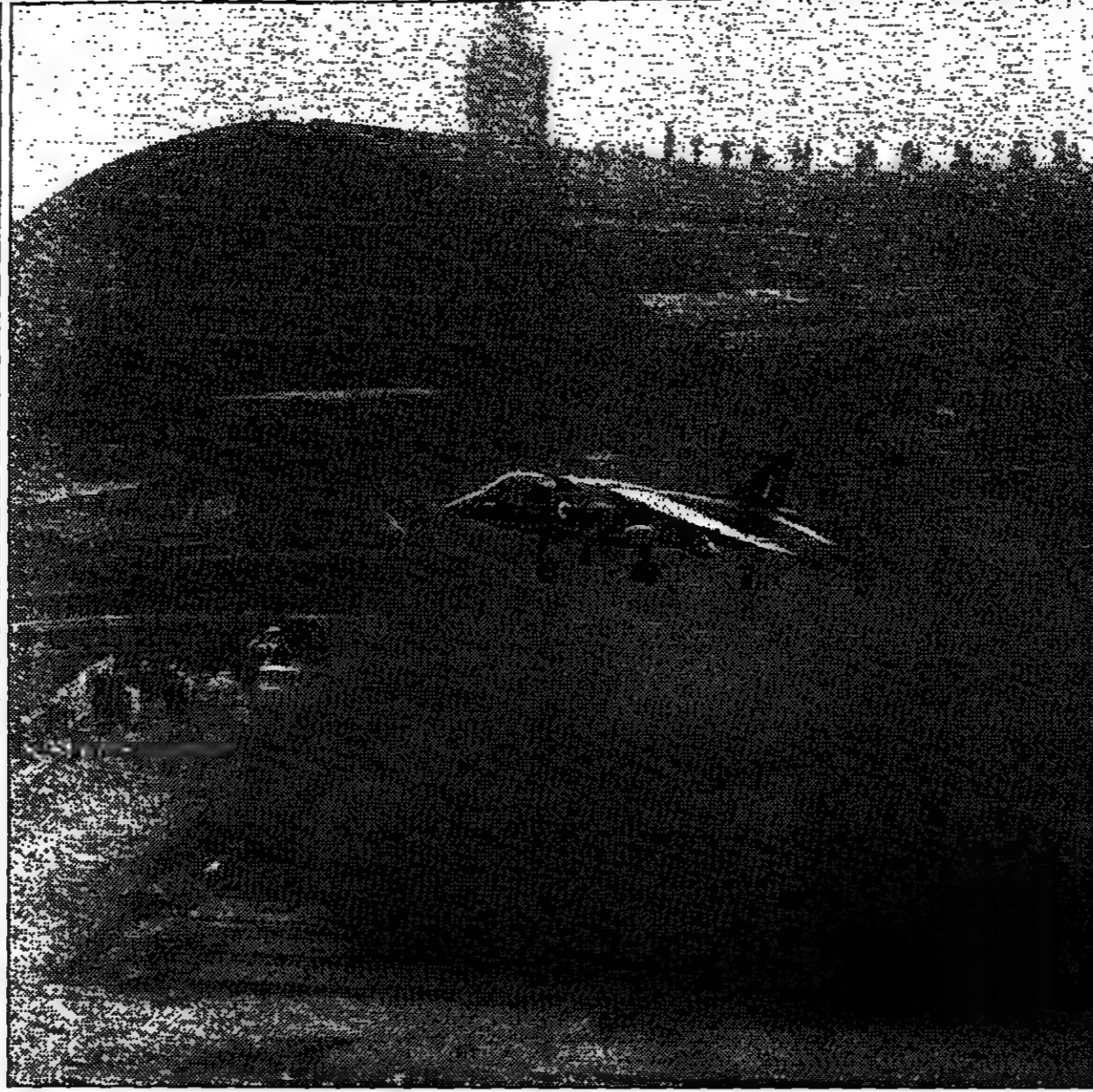
FROM 1928 until 1943, his war service was spent with the Ministry of Supply...

After the war, Ogston became reader in biochemistry at Oxford...

He returned to Oxford in 1970 as president of Trinity College...

During 'retirement' he served as a member and chairman of the Central Council of Selly Oak Colleges...

Alexander George Ogston, biochemist, born January 30, 1911; died June 28, 1986



Up and away... Harrier jump-jet taking off from a St Pancras coal-yard in the 1969 Transatlantic Air Race

John Fozard

A jump ahead in jets

THE HARRIER jet was the first and only operational vertical take-off and landing jet fighter in the world...

John Fozard, who has died aged 68, succeeded the brilliant Sir Sydney Camm as chief designer of the jet...

When the incoming Labour government cancelled the P1154 in 1964, Fozard took over as Harrier chief designer...

It was in 1950 that Fozard joined Hawker Aircraft's project design office under Camm...

that the aircraft first gripped the public imagination, particularly when, during the 1969 Daily Mail Transatlantic Air Race...

The programme for which Fozard had technical responsibility encompassed the Royal Air Force's single and two-seat Avengers...

Yorkshire-born, Fozard joined Blackburn Aircraft in Leeds as a 15-year-old indentured engineering apprentice...

When the incoming Labour government cancelled the P1154 in 1964, Fozard took over as Harrier chief designer...



Fozard... Harrier crusader

that he moved to Hawkers. In 1968 Fozard was appointed deputy chief engineer of the Hawker Siddeley design team...

ish Aerospace's Weybridge Division, lecturing and publishing technical papers about the Harrier...

John Fozard's diligence at the Smithsonian should ensure that the unique technology of this outstanding British aeronautical invention is chronicled for historians and future generations...

John William Fozard, aircraft designer, born January 16, 1928; died July 17, 1986

Weekend birthdays

DIANA RIGG was always meant to be adult - the persona now matches the always-mature articulation...



in Rebecca on TV soon, do hope as housekeeper Mrs Danvers - can't wait to hear her spit and hiss...

Today's other birthdays: Jacques Delors, former president, EC Commission, 71; Donald English, broadcaster...

Tomorrow's birthdays: Heather Angel, wildlife photographer, 56; Andrew Burns, ambassador to Israel...

Face to Faith

Real duty of a sacred city

Karen Armstrong

JERUSALEM, long revered as one of the world's most sacred places, has had a violent, turbulent history...

resurrection but why should Mount Zion in Jerusalem be the most sacred place in the Jewish world...

ity of - Jews, Christians and Muslims. Jerusalem has always been especially precious after it has been lost...

teal compassion for others. This applies to the cult of Jerusalem. From the earliest times...

Some taught that this compassion should be extended to outsiders. The holiness code of Leviticus commands the people of Israel...

quested Jerusalem in 638CE, and Saladin both invited the Jews, who had been excluded from the city by the outgoing Christian regimes...

Doonesbury

Mount as the city's garbage dump. Today the disgraceful spectacle of Christian sects squabbling over every inch of the Holy Sepulchre Church...

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Lou Gottlieb

In harmony with witty folk

LOU GOTTLIEB, who has died aged 72, was a musician from that era when folk music meant three men in suits cheerily harmonising 'sad' songs...

Gottlieb was born in Los Angeles and served in a US army band after graduating in music from the University of California...

The last group was founded in 1965 by another West Coast music graduate, Jerry Walker, and Gottlieb joined as double-bass player and harmony singer...

Gottlieb left the Gateway Singers in 1969 to complete a doctoral dissertation, Liturgical Polyphony of the 15th Century...

The trio named their group after a club in Aspen, Colorado, where Gottlieb's new colleagues had frequently performed...

Lou Gottlieb, musician, born October 10, 1923; died July 11, 1986

voice and the Paris-born Hassilev was fluent in five languages, including Russian and Spanish...

Describing himself as the 'comic-arranger musicologist', he said: 'My voice has no character and therefore draws no attention to itself.'

The group toured alongside satirical comics such as Mort Sahl and Shelley Berman and jazz performers George Shearing and Eartha Kitt...

The most successful records were recorded live and the Slightly Fabulous LP was a 1961 Top 10 hit. In that annum mirabilis they also had a minor hit single, A Dollar Down...

By 1963, the times were a-changin'. The folk fashion for suits and supper-clubs was giving way to Bob Dylan's denim and Peter, Paul and Mary's asceticism...

Letters

Dave Downie writes: The picture caption accompanying the Chas Chandler obituary (July 18) is incorrect...

Gillian Darley writes: The past tense does not sit well with the name of Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe (Obituary July 19). For him the future was the point of every endeavour...

The Rev Colin C Colclough writes: Your obituary of Ernest Armstrong (July 9) while doing justice to his public life, said next to nothing about his religious convictions...

Ernest was a 'local preacher' in Methodist terminology - that is, a lay preacher. He was most appreciated in the Circuits...

In Memoriam

Brooks, Albert Edgar. In memory of 1924-1986. Husband of the late Mavis Gladys Brooks (nee Henry, Amy, Fred and Dennis)...

It appears that a city does not become holy simply because important events once happened there...

Long before we began to reflect scientifically on the world, human beings created a sacred geography...

Jerusalem has always been especially precious after it has been lost. Thus it became a truly central symbol in Judaism after the exile of the Israelites to Babylon...

Some taught that this compassion should be extended to outsiders. The holiness code of Leviticus commands the people of Israel: 'If a stranger lives with you in your land, do not molest him as one of your countrymen and love him as yourself...



Anyone who takes part in sport faces a threat not only of injury but of a blackboard too. Rachel Beard looks at the cover-off offer

There is more people are for these

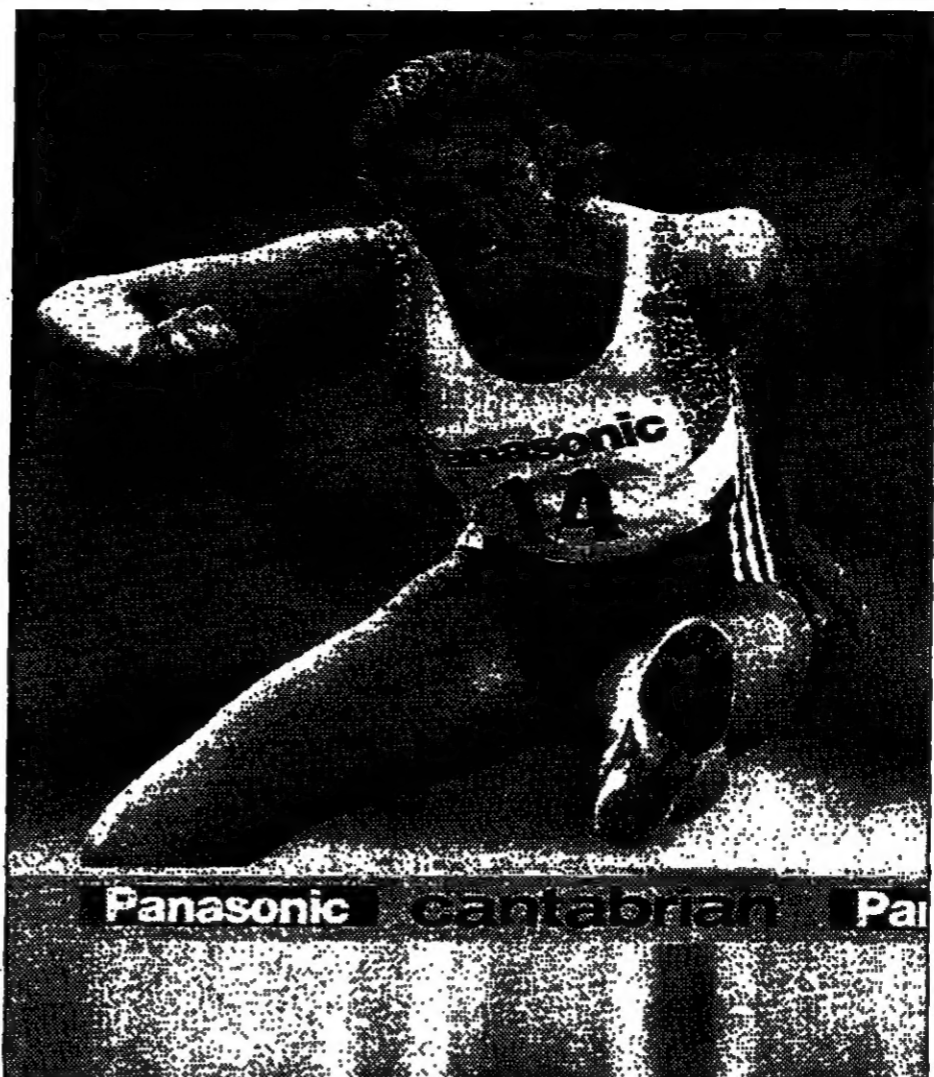
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Money Guardian

Anyone who takes part in sport faces the threat not only of injury but litigation too. Rachel Baird looks at the cover on offer



Just like money from home

Paul Stado

EMPOVERISHED students and stranded holiday-makers will soon be able to get emergency cash wired to them immediately via a new Thomas Cook money transmission service. The service, available in 80 countries, takes just 10 minutes to send cash to the 20,000 international bureaux used by MoneyGram, a US-based money transmission company which handled \$2 billion worth of transfers last year. And by the end of this year it will be possible to collect cash from 600 Thomas Cook outlets worldwide. The system is up and running in its branches in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, North America, Canada and Egypt. Senders, at their local Thomas Cook branch, transmit money via the system using a cheque, credit card or cash, and are given a reference number which the receiver needs to collect the funds at the other end. The service also offers a free message of up to 10 words — "This is all you're getting," perhaps. Once the money is in the system it can be collected at any MoneyGram outlet. The receiver must present a photo ID, such as a passport, and quote the reference number to collect the cash in the local currency. The receiver does not need to have a bank account in the country to which the money is being sent. For added security the sender can stipulate that the receiver gives an extra piece of information, such as a relative's birthday, before receiving the cash. MoneyGram believes the system will be used mainly by workers from developing countries working in the West. According to Geneva's International Labour Office, such payments came to more than \$71 billion in 1990. Other likely users are stranded tourists — research shows that about 50 per cent of holidaymakers spend more than they had planned — and student travellers seeking emergency cash from Mum and Dad. Charges for MoneyGram transfers start at £20 (about £13) for sums of up to £400 (about £250). The maximum which can be sent is \$7,500 (about \$4,800), the charge for which would be \$250 (about £160). All charges are paid by the sender.

No pain, no gain... even Olympic gold medalists such as Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell have been laid low by injury

Where athletes run the risk

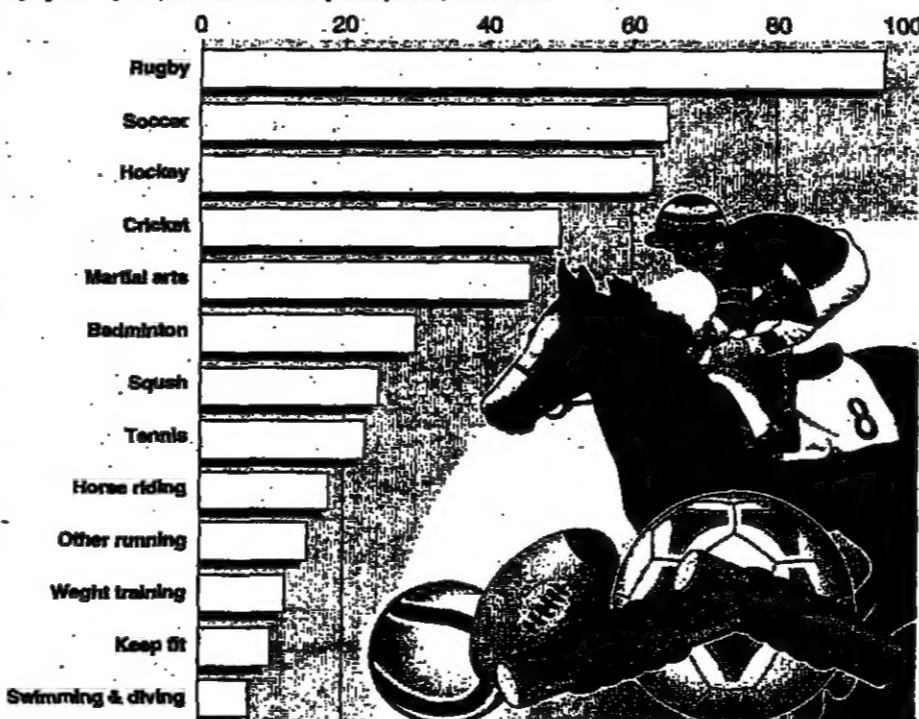
AS THE Olympic Games get under way in Atlanta today athletes face temperatures so high there are fears for their health. Away from the world stage the less accomplished face dangers of their own. Everyone who takes part in sport runs a risk and should consider getting appropriate insurance cover. A Sports Council study in 1991 found that there were 19 million sports injuries in England and Wales over the year, resulting in 6.4 million people needing treatment for their injuries. About 1.4 million sports injuries caused people to take time off work for an average of six days. Some sporting activities are much riskier than others. The Sports Council study found that rugby was three times as likely to result in serious injury as the next riskiest ac-

tivities, which are soccer, cricket, hockey and martial arts. And the survey excluded some activities insurers regard as most dangerous — including paragliding, ballooning and potholing. But if you are hurt insurance can provide cash, or access to free medical treatment. Before taking out new policies, however, people should check what existing insurance cover they already

people who may be injured in an accident, including amateur sporting accidents, according to the Association of British Insurers. Direct Line and Sun Alliance Connections, for example, provide £1 million of third-party liability insurance as standard under their contents policies. There is a growing tendency for people to sue those who injure them on the sports field. The rugby world witnessed this earlier in 1996 when Ben Smolton successfully sued the referee of a match during which he broke his neck. Fortunately for the referee, the Scottish Rugby Union's insurers paid the damages to Mr Smolton: not every amateur sportsman will be so lucky. Insurers and brokers stress that people should always check what they are covered for, so do not assume your household policy covers you for liability during sports. Contents policies may also cover sports equipment outside their home. The "all risks" section of General Accident's contents policy, for example, covers sports equipment anywhere in the UK, but only when it is not in use. To insure against the risk of being injured while playing sport, an existing personal accident policy may be adequate, but many policies exclude injuries during sports seen as particularly hazardous. Norwich Union's Family Plus policy will not pay out for injuries sustained during

Sporting injuries

Injury rates per 1,000 occasions of participation, all incidents



horse racing or mountaineering. Sun Alliance Connections' personal accident extension to its household policy excludes skiing, while General Accident charges more for its Income Protector policy if you want cover when playing rugby or football. For the sports that personal accident policies do cover, they typically pay out lump sums if the policyholder is

killed or loses a limb or the sight of an eye. They also pay out regular benefits for a limited period if the policyholder is permanently and totally disabled. Medical insurance policies also help with sports injuries. BUPA's three main medical policies all cover sports injuries, although the amount of physiotherapy available depends on what you pay for the

policy. No sports are excluded. BUPA's Fast-lane policy was designed for active, younger people and pays only for outpatient or day-care treatment, and overseas accident and emergency costs of up to £10,000. It excludes treatment for injuries sustained during what it considers dangerous activities such as ice hockey, hunting on horseback and

martial arts. Only a minority of people have personal accident and medical insurance, however, and for those who want insurance only for sports accidents personal accident and medical policies are expensive. The best option for this insurance may be via a national sports association or club. These can buy insurance for members in bulk, and an Association of British Insurers spokesman said that sports associations often offer cover at very preferential rates. Some clubs within the British Athletics Federation, for example, buy accident insurance for all their members, covering them for injury or death while at meetings organised by the Federation. The cost works out at around £2 per club member per year. But insurance brokers who specialise in sports insurance policies point out that clubs' insurance policies may not cover members outside organised training and events. Both Amasport and Sportscover Direct cover a wide range of activities including skiing, rugby, ice hockey and martial arts. Amasport's Gamesplan policy, for example, offers insurance for rugby players (including physiotherapy fees up to £150, personal liability, accidental death and permanent total disablement benefits). For further information: Sportscover Direct, tel 0171-720-8222; Amasport, tel 0171-720-2555; Golfplan Insurance, tel 0117-922-5222; British Athletics Federation, tel 0121-440-5000.

Money Guardian is edited by Margaret Hughes

Cash dash

Time and cost to send £750 from London to Jamaica.

Company	Time	Cost
Midland	4 days	£12
NaWest	4-5 days	£12
Lloyds Bank	3-5 days	£13
Halifax	3-5 days	£17
Midland	3 days	£17
NaWest	2 days	£16
Lloyds Bank	2-3 days	£19
Barclays	3 days	£20
Abbey Nat	5 days	£25
Barclays	2 days	£25
MoneyGram	10 mins	£30
Western Un*	10 mins	£42

* Available through Post Office. Source: Thomas Cook.

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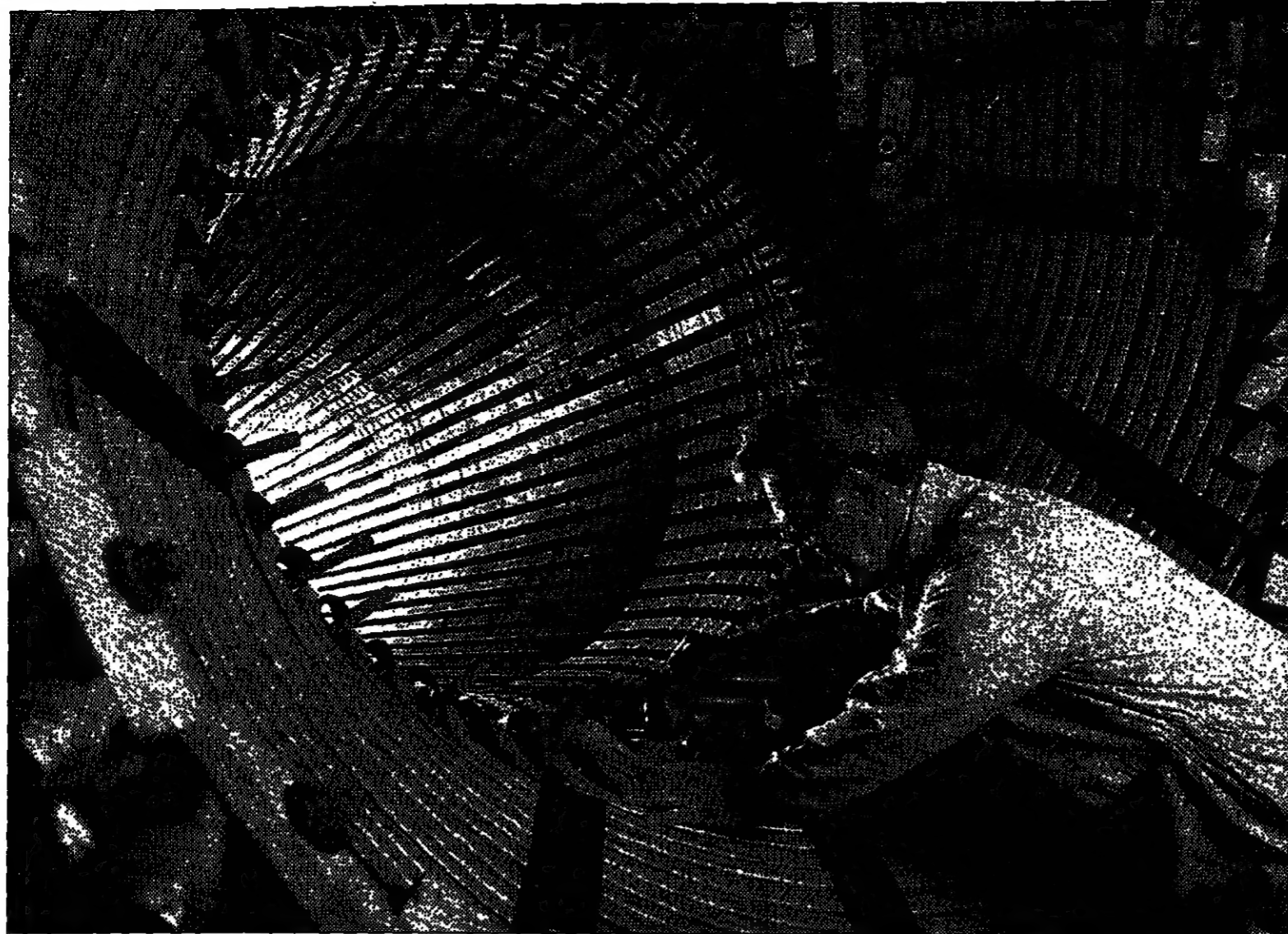
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After Swan Hunter, a 'body blow'



Powering down... Rolls is to concentrate on building smaller turbines after finding power station market hard to crack

2,500 Rolls jobs at risk

Simon Beavis and Martyn Halsall

UP TO 2,500 manufacturing jobs on Tyneside and in Derby were in jeopardy after Rolls-Royce last night announced plans to withdraw from making heavy steam turbines for power stations. The move will cost the company £236 million.

The move takes Rolls-Royce out of a part of the market it has found increasingly difficult to crack in the face of tough competition from companies such as ABB, Siemens and Mitsubishi.

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Bass poised to become biggest brewer again

Lisa Buckingham and Paul Murphy

BREWING and leisure group Bass is next week expected to unveil its long-awaited acquisition of Allied Domecq's 50 per cent stake in Carlsberg-Tetley.

The deal will require the agreement of the Office of Fair Trading as it will give Bass the biggest share of the British beer market. This will allow the group to regain the position it enjoyed for so long before being ousted by Scottish & Newcastle's acquisition of Courage.

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British Bus man and banker bailed on corruption charges

Dan Atkinson

FORMER bus company chairman and an ex-banker were yesterday arrested and charged with corruption offences totalling £800,000.

The arrests followed an investigation by the City of London magistrates' court followed an extensive Serious Fraud Office investigation.

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Lloyds Chemists ruling upheld

Roger Cowe

LOYDS Chemists faces three more months of uncertainty after the Trade and Industry Secretary, Ian Lang, yesterday backed the Monopolies Commission's decision to block rival takeover bids unless the bidders could sell Lloyds' wholesale operations.

Mr Lang said that buyers for the businesses would have to be found by October 18. Lloyds faces bids from the German group GEHE and from Unichem in the UK.

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MPs accuse Stock Exchange of dragging feet on reforms

THE all-party Commons Treasury Select Committee accused the London Stock Exchange yesterday of failing to gear itself up to meet competition from European rivals.

The committee made its criticisms after an inquiry into the sacking of Michael Lawrence, the exchange's chief executive.

Shareholders to vote on bosses' pay

Siebe brings glasnost to annual meeting, reports LISA BUCKINGHAM

THE engineering group Siebe will become the first British firm to put the entire remuneration packages of its executives to a vote of shareholders at its annual meeting at the end of this month.

The company is also understood to be planning to let investors scrutinise and vote on directors' earnings every year in future.

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Saturday Notebook

Standards slip in Charlotte Square



Edited by Alex Brummer

NEXT week, barring market accidents, Standard Life will collect a cheque for the not-inconsiderable sum of £300 million for the sale of the larger part of an investment stake in its Charlotte Square neighbour, the Bank of Scotland.

ways was the less glamorous end of the Rolls-Royce business and was intended as a more stable counterweight to the aero-engine business for which Rolls-Royce is so much better known.

But Parsons has been struggling. Despite winning some useful power plant contracts in India and forging a strategic relationship with Westinghouse, the Parsons business bought with the NEI in 1989 has found it difficult to compete in the global marketplace.

There must be some prospect that one of these rivals will be glad to pick up the extra capacity offered by the Rolls-Royce withdrawal. But it is more likely — given the current state of order books for steam power generation, the relatively tight margins and the tough worldwide sales battle — that another significant slice of Britain's heavy engineering capacity will wither away.

It is interesting to note, however, that Rolls will be hanging on to that bit of the business which uses jet-engine technology to enhance the efficiency of existing and new power generation units.

The decision will be watched particularly closely in the investment community, because it is the first of any importance made by the new chief executive, John Rose. He has clearly taken the unseasonal view that tying up so much capital in business that is struggling to improve market share against holders competitors makes no reasonable sense.

These costs are quite considerable; the company will have to take charges of £248 million in its accounts to cover the cost of closure, the unwinding of contracts and writing down of goodwill.

The costs and job losses could be limited if a trade sale emerges. But it is not entirely clear from where a long-term buyer would emerge, although Asia-Pacific has been mentioned. That would be fascinating — it is the same region that has kept Rolls-Royce alive as a major player in the equally demanding aero-engine sphere.

Rolls steams out

THE decision by Rolls-Royce to remove itself from steam power generation is an important change of direction. This all

Innovations for Burton as it buys into home shopping

Roger Cowe

BURTON Group yesterday bought the Innovations catalogue company, marking its return to expansion after turning round the Top Shop, Principles and Dorothy Perkins chains.

continuous improving the profits of the Burton group chains. The Innovations acquisition represents a longer-term strategic move into the home shopping market. "We feel home shopping is going to grow and grow," he said.

But the clothing group will launch its own products using Innovations' experience. Burton already has a database of more than 5 million names from its store card records, which will double the Innovations database.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS	
Australia 1.88	France 7.5475
Austria 15.71	Germany 2.2250
Belgium 45.99	Greece 356.00
Canada 2.0570	Hong Kong 11.64
Cyprus 0.0556	India 55.32
Denmark 8.66	Ireland 8.975
Finland 6.94	Israel 4.32
	Italy 2.286
	Malta 0.5980
	Netherlands 2.5100
	New Zealand 2.1725
	Norway 8.65
	Portugal 230.50
	Saudi Arabia 5.7575
	USA 1.5075
	South Africa 8.58
	Spain 168.50
	Sweden 10.0650
	Switzerland 181.75
	Taiwan 122.507
	UK 1.0000

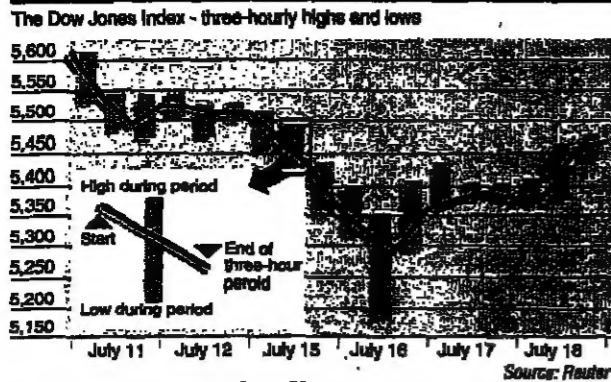
Supplied by Reuters Bank (including inter-bank and bank selling rates)

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "Stickers", "French a", and "Murdoch".

Finance Guardian

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

The Ups and Downs



Doom-mongers claimed to know it would happen all along, while other market movers tried to steady nerves after Wall Street's terrifying share price roller-coaster ride last week. PAUL MURPHY and MARK TRAN in New York report on the fallout and the future

After the deluge... New York Stock Exchange. Photograph: ADAM NADEL

ROBERT R. Frechter Jr has much in common with the doomsday sandwich-board men whose placards read "The End is Nigh".

He runs Elliott Wave International, a US company which uses "technical analysis" to spot trends in financial markets. In Mr Frechter's case, this means applying the mathematical concepts of Fibonacci, the 13th century Italian mathematician, to share price indices such as the FTSE 100 in London and the Dow Jones Industrial Average in New York. According to Mr Frechter, the omens are not good.

"The magnitude of the financial calamity that will accompany the bear markets in stocks, bonds and the economy will dwarf any previous such difficulty many countries have experienced," he said recently.

"It is imperative that you have your house in order before the new trend begins. For starters, have no long-term funds in stocks or bonds. Be wary of owning real estate for investment purposes... Your proper focus now should be preserving your assets in what, over the next several years, will almost certainly be one of the most challenging investment environments in the history of the world."

Apocalyptic stuff, the product of high-and-wacky maths. But then Mr Frechter has probably attracted a few subscribers to his view over the past few days.

Stockbrokers and their investing clients alike have rarely seen the sort of roller-coaster ride in share prices experienced on Wall Street this week. The chart (above) shows how the Dow has moved since last week, but it is also worth noting that the so-called prices whipped about on just one day - Tuesday.

Trading was frenzied. As the Dow first jumped 45

points, then plunged nearly 170 points, then staged a spectacular recovery in 15 minutes to close slightly higher on the day, almost 700 million shares changed hands - a record for the New York Stock Exchange. A day earlier, the Dow had slumped 160 points - one of the top 10 one-day falls in history.

Why did it happen? Well, as usual, when something unexpected happens in the financial markets, financial analysts and strategists queue up to state how predictable it was.

Wall Street had enjoyed a month or less unbroken 18 month run, with the Dow Jones surging 50 per cent on a heady cocktail of low interest rates and superior growth in corporate earnings.

The most remarkable illustration of this go-go stock market spirit came with the performance of technology-related stocks - many of them smaller companies quoted on New York's junior stock exchange, NASDAQ. They promise meteoric growth, and, until last week, US investors were willing to give them market ratings to match - or even exceed - those of such established names as Netscape, Junega and Exocite.

Disappointing news on profits at the beginning of the week from more established names in the technology sector - Motorola and Hewlett Packard - sent investors scurrying for the exit.

The scramble to get out was all the more desperate since these warnings on corporate earnings coincided with further evidence that inflationary pressures are building up in the US economy. For months now, American employment figures (showing new jobs being created at a faster pace than expected) have been providing broad hints that US interest rates will have to rise again soon.

That is the message of the words of Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan, who indicated to Congress that he is unlikely to put up



Apocalypse, not just yet

borrowing costs quite yet, which allowed the Dow Jones to stage a sharp recovery on Thursday.

But along with the thrills and spills of the week, some serious pain has been inflicted. Speculators who play such volatile shifts in share prices can lose, as well as make, fortunes. That is the nature of speculation.

More worrying is the evidence which suggests that much of the speculative cash

has come from people who do not have the money to lose - amateurs, if you like. In the US, retail investors have watched Wall Street's seemingly relentless rise over the past 18 months and have been falling over each other to invest in mutual funds or directly into stocks.

This has been accompanied by a surge in "margin" or "leveraged" trading, where investors are effectively borrowing money to buy shares

in the hope that gains in the price will cover interest. A similar, if less rampant, trend has been noticeable in Britain. Over recent months, stockbrokers in the Square Mile have reported a surge in what are known as "T plus 25" bargains - the process whereby investors buy shares but delay settlement for 25 days, rather than the usual five. Such investors are betting they will be able to make a quick profit without ever hav-

ing to pay for the shares - and it is a sure wager that many would not have the money if forced to do so.

That said, the London stock market has emerged from this week's high-jinks relatively unscathed. The FTSE 100 index of top British companies did fall 90 points, or almost 2½ per cent, at one stage on Tuesday. But, by yesterday's close, this key indicator of the UK's corporate health was just 18 points lower over the week.

Train ticket for a return journey

JOHN TRAIN is the sharp-talking chairman of Montrose Advisors, a New York investment boutique, and his thoughts on why stock markets go up and down are refreshingly straightforward.

In the *Global Guide to Investing*, he sets out his 13 *Chances of a Market Cycle*. Objective data are irrelevant, just "rationalisations for the herd instinct".

- 1. The Washout:** "Stocks are going way down." Business news is terrible and commentators declare things will get worse. Investors dump stocks, without regard to value.
- 2. The Early Surge:** "Things look better, but it's too early to buy." When everybody is waiting for a buying opportunity, there is unlikely to be any buying opportunity.
- 3. The Surge Continues:** "Prices seem high. It's too late to buy." A few institutional investors get pulled into the market, pushing prices higher. Private investors move from feeling that it is too early to buy shares to feeling it may be too late. Prices seem expensive, since everyone is comparing current share prices with those of the recent past.
- 4. The Second Stage of the Reckless:** "Maybe it's OK to buy." A year or so after the bottom, and with prices much higher, the public starts to become interested.
- 5. Not a Cloud in the Sky:** "Buy!" The public is hooked. Business news is excellent, profit forecasts are optimistic and jazzy new investment funds proliferate. One particular sector becomes a market darling.
- 6. The Blowoff:** "Stocks can only go up." Hot fund managers have become famous. Greedy investors, hoping for miracles, chase new market themes as a pack.
- 7. Ceasefire:** "The market is high, but this time it's different." Shares prices begin to hesitate. But enthusiasts insist the Government has mastered the business cycle, or that equities are the only refuge of inflation, or just that it is a "new era".
- 8. The Top:** "Hold." Interest rates start to go up to halt overheating. There is a series of vicious market reactions, or "chops", although the arrival of a "second chance" buyers has the decline and pushes prices up to new highs. Those who sold feel foolish, while the buyers are jubilant.
- 9. Over the Hump:** "It's too soon to sell." The public remains heavily in the market, while the professionals begin to edge towards the door.
- 10. The Slide:** "Prices are cheap, but it's too late to sell." The public remains reluctant to sell, because on the way down in a bear market stocks seem cheap. Share prices sink on bad news but fail to respond to bullish news.
- 11. "It's OK to sell."** A big event, such as a bankruptcy, punctures the balloon. There is often a powerful but deceptive recovery, a "trap rally".
- 12. The Cassinoides:** "Sell!" Business news is bad and the forecasts are for more storms. The hot fund managers have to sell stock to meet investors' redemptions, but find they can't get out of illiquid stocks.
- 13 (Or back to 1 again): The Selling Climax:** "The market's going way down."

Mr Train believes that if you have the guts to act, this is the moment when you can make the buy of a lifetime. "We've had eight economic storms since the second world war. Each time investors became convinced that the skies would never clear, or the sun shine again. But it always does."

FT Pitman Publishing, 1995

There is a simple explanation for this: the London stock market has failed to match the astonishing performance of Wall Street over past months, and so the fallout should be limited. But how limited, exactly, is open to fierce debate.

Mark Tinker, an equity strategist at brokers James Capel, is more relaxed than most. Yes, he accepts that given the close historical correlation between London and Wall Street, the Footsie will always follow any sharp short-term shift in sentiment on the Dow. But he stresses that corporate Britain is still some way behind corporate America. Over there, the advanced process of restructuring and the widening of profit margins mean that there is little more to be squeezed out of the average company. At the same time, wages are rising. What ever the outlook in US interest rates, corporate earnings there are under pressure.

On this side of the Atlantic, the corporate picture is much more benign, Mr Tinker believes, with companies having

more to do to bring costs under control and improve margins. Wages, meanwhile, are not rising here.

London's bulls, such as Philip Isherwood at Kleinwort Benson, point to other significant factors, such as the historically high cash mountains built up by pension funds and other institutions over recent months - thought to be up to 8 per cent of their assets. This money is looking for a home.

Yet over at American investment bank Goldman Sachs, US strategist Paul Walton believes a further rise in US interest rates soon will test markets everywhere.

But it is impossible to find an analyst at any of the major trading houses who admits to have looked into the abyss, like Mr Frechter at Elliott Wave International. The consensus among City strategists seems to be that the Footsie will end the year more or less unchanged from current levels. But how many hippy-funnies will be suffered in the meantime remains to be seen.

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Save the dolphin first

Roger Cowe

SMALL shareholders rank alongside whales and dolphins as an endangered species to be preserved at all costs. It is surprising that Greenspan has not sent one of his ships up the Thames to harass the Stock Exchange in their support.

Greenspan has not, but the exchange this week sent out a mission in the form of a report from the Committee on Private Share Ownership, chaired by Sir Mark Weinberg.

This is odd. It is easy to see why whales and dolphins should be protected, but who needs private shareholders? Certainly not companies, for which a share register packed with individuals owning just a few hundred shares is an administrative and financial nightmare.

Small shareholders do tend to be more loyal, but

that is a high price to pay, especially when their loyalty is usually irrelevant if it comes to the crunch of a takeover bid, because even collectively they do not control enough shares in most companies.

Loyalty is not much use to stockbrokers, either. Stockbrokers make money by buying and selling shares, not by their clients hanging on to the same tiny parcel for years. They want clients who buy and sell millions of shares at a time, not individuals with a few hundred pounds to put on the latest wonder stock.

Even the exchange needs small shareholders like it needs another Polly Peck, despite its insistence that this endangered species is vital to capitalism. Without them, the exchange would not have had the debilitating nightmare of developing systems to handle a mass of small transactions - which, ironically, will end up with holdings being aggregated in nominee accounts, thus disenfranchising individual shareholders.

But what of those individuals? All of this effort supposedly helps them make the squillions they will need to ensure a comfortable retirement. This is the crassest element of this mad scenario. Leaving aside the fact

that huge chunks of society don't even have a few hundred pounds to spare, buying shares is the last thing anyone with even a few thousand stashed away should do.

Individual shares, even of prominent companies, are risky - just ask anybody who bought Hanson shares at around 250p in 1994, only to see them now heading towards 150p. The answer is to spread that risk by investing in a broad portfolio, which means a minimum of £75,000 - money which can be ignored for several years and will not be needed in an emergency.

Even for those few with that sort of money to spare, it is becoming increasingly obvious that trying to pick winning stocks is a mug's game, less effective than investing in a fund which merely tracks the FTSE 100 companies.

Sir Mark Weinberg knows all this. He is the king of pooled investment, having built up Allied Dunbar. The rationale of that, and all the other pooled investment funds, is that people can benefit from stock market investment even if they don't have thousands to spare, by saving regularly in pooled funds such as unit trusts. That is how to save small shareholders.

Quick Crossword No. 8183

SHORTCROSS

Across

- 1 Pertaining to home (6)
- 5 Aid (in crime) (4)
- 9 Female carnivore (5)
- 10 Dilemma (7)
- 11 Curry soup (12)
- 13 A mercy (anag) (6)
- 14 Exaggerate (5)
- 17 White hot (12)
- 20 Urnfuly (7)
- 21 Blast (5)
- 22 Certain (4)
- 23 One pretending to be another (8)

Down

- 1 Plunge (4)
- 2 Blend (of petrol and air?) (7)
- 3 Bant on one purpose (6-6)
- 4 Attack verbally (6)

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

16 Under (5)
17 Absolute nonsense (5-3)
18 Old bridge in Florence (5,7)
19 Hero of tendon and heel (6)
20 Curl of hair (7)
21 Things thrown overboard (6)
22 Shrink in... (5)
23 ... apprehension (4)

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